

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes. Freight outstanding as on 30th June, 1981 stood at Rs. 35.7 lakhs.

(b) Prepayment of freight was made compulsory, earlier. To reduce freight outstanding, the Firm has been asked to make daily payment of freight on Memo against physical delivery of each wagon.

**News Item Captioned "Life Saving Antibiotic" Losing Fighting Power**

2645. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :  
SHRI H. N. NANJE  
GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press news item appearing in Indian Express dated 12th August, 1981 captioned 'Life saving antibiotic' losing fighting power ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware that the indiscriminate use of antibiotic could lead to the development of resistant organisms which in turn would make antibiotics ineffective. In order to ensure that anti biotics are used with care and only under medical supervision, antibiotics have already been classified as prescription drugs under Schedule 'L' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Therefore, antibiotics cannot be sold to

the consumer except on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

An expert group on the rationalisation of the use of antibiotics discussed the question of multiple drugs resistance and made the following recommendations :

(a) use of Chloramphenicol should be restricted to the treatment of enteric fevers and H. *influenzae* infections ;

(b) Streptomycin should not be so widely used for non-tuberculosis cases :

(c) careful watch should be kept for the finding of tetracyclin resistance in strains of V. *cholerae*, since tetracycline is often the preferred treatment for Cholera.

(d) prophylactic use of antibiotics should be avoided ;

(e) combination of antibiotics should not be used routinely ;

(f) since the use of antibiotics in diarrhoeal diseases have little curative role, antibiotics should not be prescribed unless absolutely indicated :

(g) drugs such as trimethoprim and sulphamethoxazole marketed as "Septran Bactrin" "Sulphaprim" etc. and gentamycin sulphate marketed as "Germycin" "Genticine" etc. should be restricted for "last line" therapy and not the "first line".

The above recommendations have been sent to all State Governments, Medical Superintendents of all Central Government Hospitals and C. G. H. S. Dispensaries for necessary action.