

Steps to Educate People Against Unnecessary Consumption of Vitamins

3240. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that people in the country spend more than Rs. 2 billion every year on vitamins pills, potions and tonics and that much of this money is ill spent according to doctors and nutritionists; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken or propose to educate people against unnecessary consumption of vitamin pills, tonics etc. ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that substantial quantities of vitamin preparations are being consumed in the country but these are generally taken by patients on the advice of their medical practitioners. The vitamin preparations are required when broad spectrum antibiotics have to be taken over a long period of time, and in case of convalescing patients.

Danger of Nuclear War

3241. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the World Health Organisation report as per the Financial Express of 12 May, 1983 stating that about half of the world population of 4.5 billion would be immediate victim of all-out nuclear war if it breaks out;

(b) whether according to the estimate the war with smaller tactical weapons is also to claim about 9 million lives or severely injured with the same number of people suffering less serious injuries adding that "even if the attack is aimed only at military targets, the civilian casualties would outnumber military casualties by 16—1 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to impress upon the various big powers the dangers of nuclear war as projected by the WHO report with a view to saving the humanity from large scale destruction; if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For a number of years India has been pressing in various international fora like the United Nations General Assembly, UN Disarmament Commission and the Committee on Disarmament, for measures aimed at stopping the arms race among the big powers. Particularly notable among India's recent initiatives are the following;

(a) a call for an International Convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances.

(b) The total discontinuance of all nuclear weapon tests, and

(c) A freeze on the production of nuclear weapons.

India is receiving significant support from the non-aligned countries in its basic approach.

Allopathic medicine prescribed by Ayurvedic Doctors and Hakims

3242. SHRI K. MALLAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Ayurvedic Doctors and Hakims in the country prescribe Allopathic medicine in a large number of cases ;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued instructions/guidelines in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (c) No reliable statistically based information is available with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in