GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2247
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000
STANDARD FOR FOOD AND DRUG
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;RAMPAL SINGH;SURESH PASI;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

(a) whether the Government have made it mandatory to print `Best Before` on all the packed food items to apprise the consumers that the item is fit for consumption before the date of expiry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate supervision of standard of food items, drugs and medicines is not made at the State level;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue any direction or to have a uniform level of regulation and supervision in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof;
(g) whether supervision of the blood banks has been tightened all over the country;
(h) if so, the details thereof; and
(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b): The Government has issued a notification under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 vide GSR No.537(E) dated 13.6.2000 in the Official Gazette making it mandatory for every package of food to carry a label indicating the `best before` date/month in capital letters, w.e.f. 1.9.2000.

(c)to(f): As far as items of food, drugs and medicines are concerned, the Food (Health) authorities and the Drug Control authorities in the States/UTs are charged with the responsibility of implementing the provisions of the PFA Act 1954 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 respectively as well as the Rules made thereunder. They are advised from time to time to take adequate surveillance measures and appropriate legal action against the offenders. All Units manufacturing drugs and medicines are required to comply with the statutory requirements regarding Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

(g)to(i): The Government has notified the provisions relating to blood banks under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to ensure stricter control over blood banks, which include banning the collection of blood from professional paid donors, laying down GMP for blood and its components etc. Moreover, the grant/renewal of licenses of blood banks is regulated by the State, after approval by the Central Licence Approving Authority, on the basis of inspection carried out by the Central/State drugs control officials.