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Title : Need to create awareness about the unwanted use of antibiotics and their negative effects on human health.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Of late, banning of controversial drugs has become the order of the day. Recently, the Health Ministry of the Government of India has taken a laudable decision to ban 6 controversial drugs. It is a welcome step. But I would like to pay emphasis on antibiotics, which is a specialized medicine.

The general practice in hospitals and dispensaries is when the fever is not contained, doctor prescribes antibiotics, which is a wrong practice. Only in exceptional cases, antibiotics should be prescribed. Using antibiotics would lead to severe consequences.

Another disturbing trend in all this is pharmacist without prescription gives antibiotics; sometimes patients too indulge in self-prescription, which in many cases result in dangerous situation. Sometimes doctors too prescribe these drugs without understanding the repercussion it would have. Administration of antibiotics in a wrong way should be avoided.

Under the circumstances, I would strongly urge the Union Health Minister to come up with vigorous and sustained campaigning, both in urban, rural and semi-urban areas, highlighting negative impact of antibiotics; penalty should be imposed on manufacturers, pharmacists and doctors too for abusing antibiotics as the same would result in high chances of adverse effects.