

(d) If not, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the news item.

Estimates from Indian Council of Medical Research show that about 8 lakh persons die in India every year due to Tobacco use.

The Government has intensified its efforts to discourage people from Tobacco consumption. Under the administrative instructions, Tobacco smoking is prohibited in Hospitals, Dispensaries and other Health Care Establishments, Educational institutions, Conference rooms, domestic air flights, air conditioned chair cars and air conditioned sleeper coaches in Trains, sub-urban Trains and air-conditioned Buses under the control of Government of India. Smoking has also been prohibited in public places and public conveyances in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In addition, the following measures have been taken to discourage consumption of Tobacco:-

- (i) As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning in all cartons/packets of cigarettes.
- (ii) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, a warning 'Chewing of tobacco is injurious to health' is mandatory on chewing tobacco products.
- (iii) Direct advertisements relating to tobacco or tobacco related products are prohibited on Doordarshan, and All India Radio.
- (iv) The Government has advised the State Governments to discourage the consumption of products containing chewing tobacco, including Gutka. They have also been advised to ensure that tobacco products are not sold around educational institutions such as schools, colleges.
- (v) Health Education.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme, emphasis is being given on awareness and early detection of cancer.

A proposal is under consideration, to bring forward a comprehensive legislation against the use of tobacco in the country. The Ministry is examining what other steps can be taken to stop/discourage the use of chewing Tobacco and Gutka.

[Translation]

Multinational Companies in Pharma Industry

*199. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the multinational companies for investing in pharmaceuticals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;
- (c) the present position of those proposals and the details of the proposals cleared so far; and
- (d) the policy of the Government regarding the investment in the pharmaceutical sector by the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (d) The policy relating to foreign investment in drugs and pharmaceuticals sector is contained in "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994 which is available in the Parliament Library. Briefly, investment upto 51% is permitted in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations. Investment above 51% is considered on a case to case basis in areas where investment is otherwise not forthcoming, particularly in the manufacture of bulk drugs from basic stages and their intermediates, and bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology as well as specific cell/tissue targetted formulations. Proposals for foreign investment upto 51% are cleared through automatic route by the Reserve Bank of India without reference to the Government. Proposals involving investment above 51% are considered in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. A list of applications received from multinational companies in the year 1997-98 with details thereof and decisions taken is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

| S.No. | Name of Foreign Company | Proposed Area of Activity | Remarks |
|-------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | M/s Zenith Ltd., Mauritius | For manufacture of pharmaceuticals for 100% export | Approved |
| 2. | M/s Finchimica, Italy | For manufacture of Cefazidime formulations for 100% export. | Approved |
| 3. | M/s Ethypharma SA, France | Setting up a 100% subsidiary for marketing of formulations | Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---|--|--|
| 4. | M/s SmithKline Beecham, Plc., UK | For manufacture, marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals. The products listed were analgesics, anti-pyretics, antacids, laxatives etc. | Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986 |
| 5. | (i) M/s Berlin Chemie AG, Berlin (ii) M/s Menarini Participations SA, Luxembourg | For manufacture of medicaments containing antibiotics, vitamin medicaments and others | Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986 |

[English]

Free Vaccination Facilities to Hepatitis Virus Affected Children

*200. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the free vaccination facilities for Hepatitis Virus affected children below the age of 5 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Hepatitis B Vaccine is effective for protection against Hepatitis B infection. If given in early infancy, it will protect children from getting infected and reduce carrier rates. Persons who are already infected with Hepatitis B virus cannot however be treated by vaccination which is a preventive measure. Hepatitis B vaccination has not been included under the National Immunization Programme.

As Hapatitis B can be contracted through specific routes viz. the intravenous, sexual course or by administration of infected blood or blood products, several other preventive measures have been introduced e.g. encouraging the immunization of Hospital Workers, mandatory testing of blood donations at the time of transfusion, promotion of safe sex and the use of sterile needles and syringes under the National AIDS Control Programme.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighters' Pension

*201. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters applications pending with the Government for more than five years;

(b) the details thereof till date; State-wise

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the minimum imprisonment time of freedom fighters from six months to three months for becoming eligible for freedom fighter's pension;

(d) whether any proposal to increase the pension amount and other facilities being provided to freedom fighters on the occasion of 50th year of Independence is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No such application is pending.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) On the occasion of the 50th Year of Independence, the amount of pension payable to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents has been doubled and also linked to the Price Index. The ex-Andaman Political Prisoners have been allowed to travel by Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains and have also been extended the facility of free air travel to Port Blair from Calcutta/Madras once a year with a companion.

In addition, proposals to increase other facilities like free medical treatment, guest house facility at Delhi, issue of rail pass for longer period, etc., have also been received by the Government.

Foreign Militants

1898. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist groups active in Jammu and Kashmir at present;

(b) the number of foreign based groups out of them and