

Exploitation of Herbs

2038. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading pharmaceutical companies in Europe are exploiting herbs long known in India and other countries of Asia and marketing them under allopathic names without proper patents; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) No such information has been brought to the notice of the Administrative Department i.e. Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homoeopathy.

[Translation]

Payment of Statutory Dues

2039. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was convened to consider the payment of statutory dues to employees of the public sector undertakings, decreasing avenues of employment and trends of recruiting employees on contract basis;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have decided to provide attractive benefits under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the employees of those mills which are not likely to be revived; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main issues discussed in the Special Tripartite Committee Meeting on 13th May, 1998 included non-payment of statutory dues to workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), current employment scenario in the organised sector, casualisation of workforce and retrenchment/retirement package for workers. It was decided in the meeting to make special efforts to liquidate outstanding statutory dues to workers of CPSUs. There was general agreement that action should be taken for making suitable amendments in the Contract Labour Act and to evolve a future strategy on contract labour. It was further decided to explore options to make retirement/retrenchment package for workers more attractive.

(c) and (d) In the Union Budget for 1998-99 it is proposed to make the benefits of VRS package more attractive to workers of enterprises destined for closure. A separate Restructuring Fund is being constituted for this purpose.

[English]

Indigenous System of Medical Practice

2040. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps has been taken by the Government to promote indigenous system of medical practice in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The Government has set up a new Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) in March, 1995 for the development and promotion of these systems including Yoga and Naturopathy in the country. The Department has taken various steps in the direction of strengthening and upgradation of the educational institutions pertaining to the ISM&H, standardisation of drugs of the ISM&H, enhancing the availability of the raw materials, such as, medicinal plants, research and development, actual involvement in the health care delivery. The details are as follows:

1. Financial assistance is provided for upgradation of the facilities in the educational institutions both at under graduate and post-graduate level.
2. Re-orientation training is provided to in-service teachers, physicians, researchers as part of continuing education programme and to update and upgrade their skills.
3. Premier national level institutes have been established in these systems of medicine, such as, national Institute of Ayurveda at Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta, National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy at Pune, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga at Delhi and Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth at Delhi.
4. Pharmacopoeia Committees have been set up for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy for developing pharmacopoeial standards for drugs of these systems. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine and the Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory have been set up at Ghaziabad for standardisation of drugs and testing of drugs pertaining to ISM&H.
5. Emphasis is given on development and cultivation of medicinal plants used in ISM&H. A scheme for development of agro techniques and cultivation of medicinal plants is being implemented by the Department.
6. CGHS dispensaries have been set up for ISM&H.