

(a) the number of persons sterilised in Maharashtra during 1989-90;

(b) the districts where targets set under the programme were not achieved;

(c) whether any incentive has been fixed therefor; and

(d) if so, the number of persons who were denied this incentive or who went without incentive money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) As per the latest information available from the Maharashtra States, the number of persons sterilised in Maharashtra during April, 1989 to March, 1990 is 5,26,457.

(b) Twelve Districts, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudung, Nasik, Jalna, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Buldhana, Bhandara and Chandrapur have not achieved Sterilisation target during 1989-90.

(c) and (d). Besides payment of compensation money towards loss of wages, there is a scheme of issuing Social security certificates to the acceptors of Sterilisation in selected age groups with only one or two daughters. None of the acceptors has been denied of these benefits.

Medical Council Act

10064. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Union Government to Amend the Medical Council Act, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament which has considered the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987, has submitted its report in July, 1989. The Government will take further steps for consideration and passing of the Bill by Parliament as early as possible. The main features of the Bill include the following important provisions among others:

- (i) The prior permission of the Medical Council of India and the Central Government will have to be obtained before the establishment of new medical college, increase of seats or opening of a new or higher course of training in the existing medical colleges.
- (ii) The Primary medical qualification has been defined which is M.B.B.S. at present in India.
- (iii) There will be periodical renewal of registration of medical practitioners in the Indian medical Register.
- (iv) An Ethics-cum-Disciplinary Committee is being established in the Medical Council of India as an appellate authority in the case of penalties imposed by states' Ethics Committee and as original authority for removal of names from the Medical Register.
- (v) Capitation fee is being abolished and contravention of this provision will be punishable. The Council will also be enabled to prescribe the tuition fee and other fees for students of medical colleges
- (vi) A screening test will be conducted

by the Council to permit the practice of medicine by students possessing recognised foreign medical qualifications.

[*Translation*]

Cactus and Succulent Plants for Cure of Diseases

10065. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that cactus and succulent plants have proved very useful in the treatment of diseases like cancer, gouts, diabetes and sexually transmitted diseases;

(b) whether tests have been carried out on cactus and succulent plants to find out their utility for the treatment of these diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) According to the classical texts cactus is not being used as medicine. However, succulent plants Kumari (Aloe vera) and Snuhi (Euphorbia nerifolia) are being used as medicine since Charak's time. The Charak Samhita indicates that the Snuhi is useful in diabetes.

(b) and (c). The two major cactus plants which are used by the various indigenous systems of medicine and on which certain pharmacological and clinical studies have been carried out are the following:

(i) Euphorbia nerifolia (Snuhi) and

(ii) Aloe vera (Indian aloes)

While the latex of Euphorbia nerifolia is the major ingredient of Kashaarasotra which is an Ayurvedi medicated thread used in the non-surgical treatment of anal fistula, Aloe vera has been reported to have antifertility and wound healing properties (in animal studies). Blood sugar lowering effect of Aloe vera has also been reported in animals.

A summary of the results so far obtained on the efficacy of Ksharrasootra (Ayurvedi thread) by clinical trials conducted under the aegis of ICMR is given in the Statement below:—

STATEMENT

TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

In the research activities in the area of Traditional Medicine revived during the 7th Plan period, the Council has adopted a disease-oriented approach, in contrast to the conventional drug-oriented approach. As reported earlier, during the 7th Plan, 6 thrust areas were taken up for a co-ordinated integrated study. These areas are: viz. anal fistula, filariasis, viral hepatitis, urolithiasis, diabetes mellitus and bronchial asthma.

As integrated, coordinated strategy was formulated involving multi-disciplinary efforts for both clinical and experimental studies. While most of the clinical trials are multicentric and double blind in nature, experimental studies (chemical, pharmacological and toxicological) are being undertaken at the Centre for Advanced Pharmacological Research on Traditional Remedies set up at the CDRI, Lucknow.

The clinical trials are based on uniform protocols and proforma formulated by clinical, pharmacological and biostatistical experts in close consultation with the Ayurvedic/Unani experts.