

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Director, Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research, that the drugs not on V. M. S. list of Medical Stores Depot are purchased from firms licensed by Drugs Controller, Public Sector enterprises and approved firms on Government rate contract on the recommendation of the Expert Drug Committee of the Institute and as such no preliminary testing is done in the Institute or outside.

(c) In case the clinical efficacy of any drug is in doubt the matter is reported to the concerned authorities for taking suitable action.

Health Risks from Metals in Food-stuffs and Water

6990. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the general health risks arising from metals in foodstuffs and water which are being spread through the air also and are harmful for plants, animals as well as human beings and if so, results of any studies conducted so far;

(b) what are the main metals involved in the above and the nature of health risks; and

(c) whether World Health Organisation have set any limits and whether these are being followed in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government is aware of the possibilities of the general health risk from metals as a result of increasing industrialisation. A worldwide collaborative WHO/UNDP Project carried out with great care at the beginning of this decade did not reveal excessive intakes of lead and cadmium in the average population in 3 urban localities in India. A multicentric study supported by Department of Environment is currently underway to get the

baseline data for heavy metals in water, food and air.

(b) Main metals of concern are cadmium, lead mercury and arsenic. Cadmium causes damage to kidney and bones whereas lead and mercury are principally neurotoxic. Arsenic may cause dermatitis.

(c) WHO has set limits of tolerance for a few heavy metals. The limits of heavy metals in various foods have already been prescribed under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

As regards water, Government has also prescribed its own guidelines for acceptability of drinking water laying down the tolerance limits of heavy metals.

Proposal for Uniformity in Tariffs in Major Ports

6991. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for fixing tariffs for the different major ports;

(b) the port charges and wharfage rates charged at different major ports;

(c) the reasons for differences in tariffs in the major ports;

(d) whether ports having lower tariff rates are attracting more traffic than the other ports where tariff rates are higher; and

(e) if so, whether Government have any proposal to make the tariffs uniform in all major ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The traffic passing through a port consists of many commodities. The ability to bear the port charges may vary considerably with individual commodities. Some commodities may not stand the full costs, which include depreciation, overheads and minimum return on capital employed. Commodities like coal and salt will move only when the charges are substantially low. In such cases the ports are required to recover only the bare cost of moving such traffic which are direct costs and constitute

the floor charges in the tariff system. Commodities of higher value and comparatively smaller bulk can stand higher rates which may be fixed on the principle of ports charging 'what the traffic can bear'. In view of the multiplicity of commodities and the services required to be rendered by the major ports, the individual rates are differentiated according to the classifications and variations in the costs of handling of the cargo and the vessels. Application of this principle necessitates cross subsidisation of handling of various commodities and also various services.

(b) The rates charged at the major ports are published in books called Scales of Rates. All these books are available on payment of price. The results likely to be achieved by reproducing these large sized books of all the ten major ports will not be commensurate with the labour and cost involved.

(c) As in (a) above.

(d) The traffic handled at ports is dependent on the production in and requirements of the hinterlands served by the ports, as also on the facilities available at the ports, including the infrastructure such as roads, railway links, transport, etc. Tariff structures alone are not a guiding factor in the shippers' option for a particular port.

(e) Differential rates are implicit in the value, volume and direction of trade. Public interest may also necessitate differential tariff for certain kinds of commodities and for certain periods. The idea of having a uniform rating system is attractive though specious. Since each port has in respect of traffic an individuality of its own and relies on certain commodities from which the bulk of its revenue is derived, such as tea, gunnies at Calcutta, iron ore at Madras, Visakhapatnam and Mormugao, there will be practical difficulties in working out a uniform rate for all ports. These considerations militate against the principle of uniform rates even for major commodities at the various ports.

CGHS Wing in Safdarjung Hospital and Polyclinic in R. K. Puram

6992. SHRI HAFIZ MOHAMMAD SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS Wing in Safdarjung Hospital is not a composite one and patients for skin, neurology, orthopaedic etc. have to line up with the general public in the Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) whether for obtaining X—Rays, getting E.C.G. done etc., CGHS beneficiaries have no separate arrangements;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to make the wing composite and also to open a polyclinic in R.K. Puram; and

(d) by when CGHS dispensary building for Sector IV, R.K. Puram is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) At present no proposal for expansion of the CGHS Wing of Safdarjung Hospital or to open a polyclinic in R.K. Puram is under consideration.

(d) Construction of CGHS dispensary at R.K. Puram Sector IV will be considered after procurement of the plot of land earmarked for the purpose.

Proposal to Construct Nursing Home in Safdarjung Hospital

6993. SHRI HAFIZ MOHAMMAD SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Nursing Home in Safdarjung Hospital for the convenience of the Government employees residing in that part of the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal for establishing a Nursing Home in the Safdarjung Hospital during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(c) Due to financial constraints it is not possible to consider such a proposal at present.