

should be banned by Union Government; and

(b) if so the names of those drugs and the action taken by Union Government to ban those drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY) (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had in its judgement in a Civil Appeal given a direction to the Drugs Controller (India) to hold public inquiries regarding the advisability of banning fixed dose formulations of Oestrogen and Progesterone.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Drugs Controller (India) and other experts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued a notification, in exercise of powers given by Section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, banning all fixed dose combinations of Oestrogen and Progesterone except those which are used as oral contraceptives.

Pension to Agriculturists

1537. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring forward a legislation to provide pension and other benefits to agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give financial assistance to the States for implementing such schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Diagnostic Kit for Early Detection of Filaria

1538. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diagnostic kit for early detection of filaria has been developed indigenously;

(b) whether its trials have been found successful.

(c) whether Government propose to make this kit available with local chemists of the country to make it available to general public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) Yes, Two Diagnostic kits for detection of filariasis have been developed indigenously. One of the kits has been developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. The other kit has been developed by Cadilla Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd., Ahmedabad and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha.

(b) According to the manufacturers, the trials have been found to be successful.

(c) and (d). This will depend on the effectiveness of the kit being established after independent evaluation by a recognised agency with special reference to distinguish the present infection from the past infections, to detect persons harbouring filarial parasite in the blood (microfilaria carriers) and to rule out the possibility of cross reaction with other helminthic infections and finally to find out the feasibility of its practical use.