

of primary education. We are fully vigilant in this regard and efforts are being made in this direction.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: The hon. Minister while replying to the question said that old educational institutions meant for imparting training to the teachers will be closed down and new institutions would come up under the new system of imparting training to the teachers. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has considered to start or establish new institutions for it or the old institutions which were there and closed down as per the new system of education will be converted to impart training in the new system to the teachers?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The answer is given in the main answer itself. This will be done by upgrading the existing government elementary teacher training institutions and in districts where such institutions do not exist it will be done by establishing new ones.

Side-effects of Medicines for Relieving Cold and Pain

* 396. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about adverse side-effects of some popular medicines for relieving cold and pain;

(b) if so, the names and details thereof;

(c) whether literature of them contains cautions about their side-effects and whether media advertisements indicate the same; and

(d) if not, the steps Government pro-

pose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d): A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Government had received a complaint from Shri S. Datrang, a resident of Nehru Nagar, Bombay about adverse effect of a formulation "Coldarin" containing Aspirin, manufactured by M/s. Boots Co. (India) Ltd., Bombay. The complainant has alleged that his son, 5 1/2 years old, had taken Coldarin tablets and had the side-effects of gastric bleeding. According to the complainant his son had taken the drug for a period of 4 days continuously to allay fever and the chill associated with fever. On the 5th day the child vomitted blood and was admitted to a private nursing home at Dadar, Bombay and as the bleeding continued the child was removed to the Intensive Paediatric Care Unit of the Lokmanya Tilak Memorial Hospital, Sion, Bombay. Ultimately, the bleeding was diagnosed to be due to side effect of Aspirin.

(c) and (d). The package inserts on Coldarin give the cautionary statement about the side effects of Aspirin and a warning that it should not be administered to children below 12 years of age. The contents of the cautionary and warning notes are not displayed in T.V. advertisements. However, the manufacture of this drug, M/s Boots India Ltd., Bombay, has suspended advertisement of Coldarin through Television. Government, as a measure of abundant caution, has written to State Drug Controllers to confirm that manufacturers of Aspirin formulations are giving the cautionary and warning notes. The Indian Medical Association has also been addressed to advise its members not to prescribe aspirin formulations to children below 12 years of age.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, may I know what is the content of aspirin in coldarin and whether this drug is allowed for marketing in Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): It is a standardised thing. It has been accepted by all countries as standard and well within the limits of endurance.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Mr. Datrange has lodged a complaint not only with the Maharashtra Government but also with the Central Government Authorities. He did not get any reply for more than six months. He has written that he has got those strips on which that caution is not mentioned and here they have written that the caution is mentioned on the strip. Will the Government get the strip from him and verify whether what he says is correct or what these people say is correct? Why I am asking this is because on TV no caution was ever mentioned and we do not know whether they have mentioned it on the strip or not. Will the Government ask the Boots Co. (India) Ltd. to pay the compensation to these people?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Hon. Member was asking about this incident and I would like to tell him that M/s Boots Co. (India) Ltd., Bombay had informed the Drug Controller of India that on receipt of the complaint from Shri S. Datrange in the month of April, 1987, they had sent the executives to meet the complainant and to obtain a sample for analysis which was not given by the complainant. The Company had also met the treating doctor to get the detailed information of the adverse reaction. Simultaneously, the Company had checked the controlled samples of coldarin tablets, batch No. 4680 which was found to be satisfactory and complied with quality standards. In the meantime, the company had sus-

pending the advertisement of coldarin tablets through TV media.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: You just want to believe the Boots Company and you are not prepared to believe your own citizen. Why did not your people meet Mr. Datrange when he said that he had suffered so much on account of adverse effects?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are believing the Drugs Controller of India and what we have been telling the House is based on the report of Drug Controller. We have had many detailed discussions with him. I am satisfied that for the first time when certain adverse effects were brought to the notice of the Drugs Controller of India and also the manufacturers, they themselves offered to stop their TV advertisement and to insert a warning. A manufacturer while he is manufacturing a medicine does not put an ingredient which is harmful. But once the medicine goes into the market and goes into the public use, anything reported from any user by way of adverse effect is immediately taken care of. What we have to see in the case of every medicine the whether is manufacturer has taken all reasonable care promptly after something had been reported to him. In this case, it so happened that this manufacturer from the records available with us has taken all those precautions. He could not have anticipated any such effect until it was reported. Immediately after it was reported, he started putting the warning on the strip. Before that it was not there obviously and if you refer to that strip which is three years' old, you will not find it.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Why don't you insist on payment of compensation to him?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Let him go to the court for compensation. I do not see how I can ask anybody to pay compensation. It is for him to go to the court and claim compensation.

DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: More than a decade earlier, authorities on medicine, Dr Goodman and Gill Man had recommended to the world that no combined therapy should be encouraged any more. But I am sorry to say that in our country, most of the analgesic pain removing drugs, cold drugs and other drugs are still manufactured on the basis of combined therapy; they are having so many ingredients. Once a patient takes a drug, it becomes very difficult to detect from which ingredient the reaction has taken place. Why is the Government still encouraging manufacture of combined drugs in the country in spite of the recommendations made by an authority on drugs?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I do not know that. I have got authorities by the dozens here with me; I have got articles and I have got magazines in which these things have been gone into. A number of countries, almost all countries in the world, are manufacturing these things and marketing these things. They have been used as pain killers. We know pain killers have been in this country for as long as we remember. If some medical authority has found that this is not correct, the overwhelming opinion in the whole world is that it is being used and it has been found to be rational in the sense that if there are three ingredients in a particular cold preparation this is because there is no specific treatment for cold. Cold formula has two or three ingredients. One is for fever, another for congestion. If three ingredients are combined in order to meet each of these three complaints and made into a capsule or a tablet, I do not see anything irrational; it is totally rational.

SHRI HAROQBHAI MEHTA: Sometimes when the Government is not alert, on the report of the Drug Controller, some combinations are banned or prohibited. Courts are giving stay orders with the result that the dealers are meanwhile free to sell those combinations. Is the Health Ministry

aware of such cases where courts have stayed Government orders banning such combinations and whether the Health Ministry has taken up the matter with the Law Ministry in order to shut out court jurisdiction from such health matters so that the court ceases to play with the health of the people.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is a very difficult and generalized question. It is a fact that courts give stay orders. It is also a fact that when a stay order is given against the Government decision, Government takes all possible steps expeditiously to see that those orders are vacated. It is also a fact that sometimes the orders are not vacated. Finally, if the court decision is against the Government, we have to fall in line with the court decision.

Research on Utility and Efficacy of Tribal Herbs

* 398. **SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA †:**
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the results of the research conducted by various organisations on the utility and efficacy of tribal herbs and extracts of plants in the treatment and cure of different diseases; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to see that these herbs and plants or medicines based on them reach common people to alleviate sufferings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). There is no separate category of tribal herbs. Many herbs used in Indian Systems of Medicine are also used by tribals in their areas. However, there are certain