

dispensaries and the State Governments for encouraging/motivating doctors to prescribe generic medicines to the maximum extent possible.

**Testing of cosmetics on animals**

3805. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cosmetics are being tested on animals in India, before these are launched in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to ban this ill-conceived practice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether such practice has since been banned in other advanced countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal authority for developing the standards of cosmetics. The BIS has informed that under the Indian Standards on Cosmetics formulated by it, the cosmetic products are likely to be safe and such products may not warrant any safety testing. The BIS has also denied any information about testing on animals in this regard. The BIS has also informed that it is working towards harmonizing the standards with international practices for elimination of animal testing for cosmetics.

**Guidelines for food manufacturing companies**

3806. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any guidelines for food manufacturing companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the food manufacturing companies are following these guidelines in letter and spirit; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to monitor and regulate these food manufacturing companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has been implemented with effect from 5th August, 2011. Various provisions of this Act, Rules and Regulations notified under the Act, offer guidelines for food manufacturing companies. In addition to these, various advisories have also been issued as guidelines to food business operators which are placed on the website of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). All food business operators are to comply with the requirements stipulated under the Act, Rules and Regulations and are required to take either licenses or registrations depending on eligibility. The time line to obtain license/registration has been extended upto 4.2.2014. The Act and Regulations have provisions for surveillance, monitoring and enforcement to regulate food business operators in the Country.

#### **Launch of National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Programme**

3807. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Programme;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be launched; and

(c) the kind of help being given at present by Government to the States for prevention and control of Sickle Cell Anaemia?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject and State Governments are providing various health care facilities. However, support is being provided to States and UTs under NRHM for strengthening the health care facilities. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama (RBSK) recently launched under NRHM provides for early detection and treatment of sickle cell anaemia among children. State Governments can submit proposals for treatment of sickle cell anaemia cases as part of their respective Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) for consideration of central assistance under NRHM.