

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

Monday, February 18, 2008

Mayor of Delhi, Ms. Arti Mehra today named the Municipal Sports Club opposite Old Delhi Railway Station as Shanti Desai Sports Club to commemorate the birth anniversary of Ex. Mayor of Delhi, Late Sh. Shanti Desai. Mr. Subhash Arya, Leader of Opposition, Mr. Vijender Gupta, Chairman, Standing Committee, Mr. Suman Kumar Gupta, area Municipal Councillor were present at this function.

The Mayor speaking on the occasion praised Mr. Suman Kumar Gupta for naming this club on the name of Mr. Shanti Desai so that the coming generation will emulate his ideals in their lives.

Mr. Vijender Gupta and Mr. Subhash Arya on this occasion assured that all necessary equipments and amenities will be provided to Shanti Desai Sports Club besides ensuring outstanding maintenance.

Mr. Suman Gupta on this occasion assured that he is committed to provide better civic amenities to residents of the walled city area.

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Thursday, February 28, 2008

**VIGILANCE REPORT AND LABORATORY TESTS EXPOSE MAJOR
IRREGULARITIES IN PURCHASE OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES**

Ms. Arti Mehra, Mayor of Delhi today informed that irregularities have been detected in the purchase of Ayurvedic medicines in MCD as well as treatment of patients. She said that on receiving various complaints that the patients coming for Ayurvedic treatment were not being provided with proper and required medicines. It was alleged by complainants that instead of providing such medicines, costly medicines were being purchased in connivance with certain companies. On receipt of number of such complaints, Mayor herself alongwith Leader of House, Mr. Subhash Arya, Chairman, Standing Committee, Mr. Vijender Gupta and Chairman, Health Committee, Mr. V. K. Monga and Vigilance team conducted surprise raids on 29th October last year at two Ayurvedic hospitals of MCD located at Ballimaran and Haiderpur and two major dispensaries situated at Shahdara (South) and Town Hall. These raids were conducted as test cases to find out the genuineness of the complaints.

The Mayor disclosed that during the course of raids, samples of medicines mostly containing gold powder (Swarn Bhasam) were lifted by the Vigilance Department. These samples were sent to Shri Ram Institute Laboratory for testing. The samples lifted from various dispensaries were subjected to in-depth detailed examination and analysis by the Institute. The ancient ayurvedic treatises like Charak Sanhitha, Rasendrasarasangraha, Bhaisajyaratnavali etc. were concerted in addition to Government of India Publications, the Ayurvedic Formulary of India. Actual quantity of ingredients that should be present in these medicines was ascertained through these ancient treatises the medicines were subjected to various tests confirm to their ingredients. It is unfortunate that all the medicines procured by the MCD failed the test. The medicines that were supposed to have precious metals like gold and silver in them. The medicine either did not have them at all or had in traces.

Ms. Arti Mehra also disclosed that the Vigilance Department also found various irregularities in the purchase policy as well as distribution of these medicines. The Vigilance Department in its report found that the senior doctors who prepared the NIT as well as the Purchase Committee did not ever think it prudent to purchase ayurvedic medicines following either the specification of Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI) nor classical books of Ayurveda. It is unbelievable that the doctors of the Purchase Committee were not aware of these ancient treatises or AFI in which not only the ingredients were mentioned, but how much should be present in each medicine is also clearly specified. The Purchase Committee insisted that drugs shall be of standard quality without anywhere prescribing the standard. Moreover, at the technical bid stage, they were examining the medicines only by smell, colour, rubbing it on hand or floating in the water. They insisted on bringing a quality test certificate from a reputed laboratory without specifying any parameters. Therefore, the suppliers most conveniently brought such certificates on colour, smell etc. from the reputed test labs.

Giving details of irregularities in distribution, the Mayor pointed out that the required periodic checking by the doctor/incharge of the hospital was not done in the stock book. The medicines were not issued directly to the patients from the stock book but some quantity of the medicine was first transferred to the daily issue register in which the signatures of the patients were obtained at the time of issuing the medicine. It has been observed that for the medicines containing gold contents, daily issue registers were being maintained, whereas for other medicines, these registers were not maintained. In some cases, medicines were issued without obtaining signatures of the patients. Thumb impressions of the patients were not verified. In some cases, two cards were found issued in the name of one person and accordingly the medicines were issued on both the cards on same day. There was no check and balance for verification of the patients particulars. Entries were also found where medicines were issued without any entry in the OPD register.

The Mayor further informed that during the Congress regime the budget provision for purchase of ayurvedic medicines was nearly Rs.21 crores, which at a stretch was increased to Rs.35 crores and a bulk of medicine supplies were received within one month. After resuming power, BJP has curtailed the budget provision to Rs.24 crores. It does not imply that BJP has lost a faith on treatment by Indigenous System of Medicines, but it is determined to ensure that good quality medicines and treatment must be available to citizens of Delhi. For this purpose, MCD is going to shortly introduce a new Purchase Policy for purchase of medicines.

Giving hints about new Purchase Policy, Mayor said that for purchasing of classical medicines or the proprietary medicines, the purchase committee must clearly mention the formulations on which the medicines would be tested/purchased. In case of classical medicines, the formulations are given either in the Government of India books published by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare like AFI or available in the ancient treatises on the subject. In case of proprietary medicines, the supplier will be duty bound to specify the ingredients and quantity in which they are present in the medicines according to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Each of these proprietary medicines should be evaluated on the declared ingredients and compared to the classical medicines normally available in the market. These should be purchased only if some exceptional formulation, different from the classical medicines is being offered. By this way the number of proprietary medicines can be drastically reduced and can be substituted with classical medicines. Once a decision is taken to purchase certain proprietary medicine, it should be tested on the ingredients and the quantity declared by the company. If these steps are taken, it is expected that the fake and sub-standard companies will stop bidding for the MCD and better companies will come forward, the Mayor hoped.

Ms. Arti Mehra said that the Vigilance report indicate that proper application of mind was not made while making selection of the medicines. The whole approach smacks of dereliction of duty. She said that befitting and strict disciplinary action will be taken against the delinquent officials responsible for the irregularities. The system will be made scientific, transparent and fool proof

so as to ensure that the medicines of proper and required quality are purchased with rightful ingredients. It will also be ensured that the system of distribution of medicines to patients is also be fool proof to ensure misuse and pilferage.
