SAID NO TO INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVES!
OPPOSE MULTINATIONAL DRUG INDUSTRY!

RESIST COERCIVE POPULATION POLICY!

The Govt. of India has decided to soon introduce Net-en, a long-term hormonal injectable contraceptive to official birth control programmes for mass application. Net-en and Depo-Provera, another similar injectable hormonal contraceptive, have long been prohibited by WHO due to its high failure rate and dangerous side-effects. But the deterred GOI has now resorted to using the same method. The international community was shocked when the GOI inserted a clause in the recently passed National Family Welfare Act to include Net-en in the official birth control programmes. The GOI has also taken a wrong decision to include Net-en in the official birth control programmes. The GoI has also been thrust into a corner by protests from various concerned sections of the people. The GOI has resorted to using Net-en in the official birth control programmes. The GOI has been forced to use Net-en in the official birth control programmes. The GOI has also been forced to use Net-en in the official birth control programmes. The GOI has also been forced to use Net-en in the official birth control programmes.

Net-en is a synthetic progesterin that mimics natural female sex hormone progestrone and given in high-dose injection every two months prevents conception by disrupting the natural physiological mechanism by ways not yet fully determined. In various studies, the success rate was negligible and high percentages of so-called "failures" were reported. Minimum numbers of dropout and the numbers of dropout were also very high. It may cause:

* various menstrual disturbances ranging from heavy and prolonged bleeding to total stoppage.
* infertility may result.
* thickening of blood vessels and cardiovascular diseases.
* development of blood clot at unexpected sites resulting in damage to heart, lungs, brain etc.
* loss of bone density increasing risk of fracture.
* weight gain or even loss of weight.
* increased risk of cancer.
* deformity of the foetus in the womb.

Natural sex hormones perform certain other very important functions e.g. progesterone plays a part in the development of healthy nerve cells and in brain and thyroid functions. The synthetic Net-en is unable to perform such jobs. The point to note is that worthwhile research has yet been made to look for serious adverse effects of Net-en in the other body systems.

Further Net-en is not suitable for mass use. In order to determine suitability, one needs the service of at least a person familiar with handling physical and lab examinations to find out that the woman is not pregnant, has normal bi-phasis cycles, is not vulnerable to the risks of breast cancer, genital cancer, thrombo-embolic disorders, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, irregular menstruation, liver dysfunction etc. Thus selecting the suitable woman the doctor will have to explain patiently in understandable language to her the mechanism of action, all possible side-effects and complications for which proper treatment ought to be assured in the course of obtaining informed consent of the user. Thereafter, the doctor is to perform all such...
tests and monitor relevant bodily functions at every injection episode. There is at present no Govt. medical center in the entire country that is prepared to offer such specialized services to every contraceptive-seeker. In fact, they have little experience of the practice of informed consent.Our medical centers are more accustomed to treat the fertile women with contempt, neglect or coercion. That is why there is a serious risk of spreading HIV and Hepatitis B through this project.

Though hormone injectables are endowed with being safe, cheap, easy to use etc. by the multinationals and the Govt. these are not yet popular in their countries of origin even after few decades of their invention. In Euro-America it is given mainly to mentally handicapped persons, prisoners, third world immigrants etc. At present, it is the costliest among contraceptives. Unlike other contraceptives women cannot get rid of it in case of complications. The countries/societies who achieved success in controlling their population size never needed or employed injectable hormones. Though the last national population policy declares the commitment of the Govt. towards ‘voluntary and informed choice’ and ‘target-free approach’, this project is meant for violation of the commitment.

Frankly our patriarchal Govt. is afraid to promote contraceptive for male use and is also not serious about providing contraceptives to poor women. Our women actually need and seek contraceptives as they suffer tremendously from the misery of repeated pregnancies and rearing of children. Already these injectable contraceptives are smuggled from neighbouring countries and rural women are taking it from quacks at a cost of Rs.300/- to Rs.500/- per injection. False propaganda are rampant e.g. it can cause abortion or year-long infertility etc. Now the NPP admits that the unmet need of contraceptives is 28%. The visible and declared eagerness of the Govt. behind this project is due to the pressure of the multinationals. These countries who are able to exercise their independence have resisted the pressure from the multinationals, but our Govt. has succumbed. That is why, not only hazardous contraceptives but various discriminatory, punitive and anti-democratic measures e.g. degrading ration cards, education in Govt. schools, Govt. jobs, various other welfare entitlements etc. are being imposed by various state Govt.

It is necessary that the facts surrounding this project be propagated to all sections of people including doctors and health workers. Protest actions are launched at every corner. Concerned persons and organizations are requested to send protest letters to the Prime Minister and the Health Minister of India.

Please check the email because Saradindu is going to mail you today by 11:30 A.M.

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