

editors in chief suggested that more efforts should be made to study and apply the theory on attaching equal importance to writing and pictures in newspaper contents.

During the meeting, the best frontpage photojournalism was selected from among 52 contestant newspapers, of which 15 were winners of first, second, or third prizes.

State Council Convenes Session on 'Fake' Medicine

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 31 (XINHUA)—The State Council, China's highest governing body, convened a special telephone conference today on supervision of medical production and sales, a clear sign of China's firm determination to crack down on fake medicine which has run rampant in many parts of the country.

Chaired by State Councilor Luo Gan, the conference aims to strengthen supervision of medical products and strictly deal with the criminal activities of producing and selling fake and shoddy medical products.

Peng Peiyun, State Councilor, told the conference that China handled more than 80,000 cases of producing and selling fake and shoddy medical products from 1985 to 1993; 24,500 of them were dealt with in 1993.

The production and sales of shoddy medical products, she said, have expanded from precious medical herbs to chemical medicine and imported medicine or even poisonous medicine.

Meanwhile, the production and sales of fake and shoddy medicine have been rampant in many parts of the country with a dozen counties involved in such production and sales in some provinces. These products, she said, have claimed many lives or disabled many others.

Peng attributed the widespread practice to lack of supervision by some local government departments and incomplete laws or regulation guiding the medical supervision.

"Medical products are special commodities which have a direct bearing on the health of the general public, whose supervision brooks no relaxation," Peng said.

Therefore, she urged localities to intensify supervision by a thorough check-up on enterprises, individual or private businesses on the current situation of the production and sales of medical products.

She also urged local departments to deal with the criminals and publicize some of the serious cases in the media. Those who seriously abuse power or ignore their duty or take part in production and sales of fake and shoddy medicine must be dealt with seriously, she said.

Peng also called on governments at various levels to support the central government's effort in such campaign and intensify the publicity of relevant laws and regulations.

Law on Maternal, Infant Health Care Reported X OW3110120194 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0727 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 27 Oct (XINHUA)—The Law of the People's Republic of China on Maternal and Infant Health Care

(Adopted at the 10th meeting of the Eighth National People's Congress Standing Committee on 27 October 1994)

Chapter I. General Principle

Article 1. This law is formulated according to the Constitution to guarantee the health of mothers and infants and to improve the quality of births.

Article 2. The state provides essential conditions and material assistance to the development of undertakings for maternal and infant health care, so that mothers and infants have access to medical and health care services.

The state supports undertakings for maternal and infant health care in outlying and poor areas.

Article 3. People's governments at all levels exercise leadership in the work of maternal and infant health care.

The undertakings for maternal and infant health care should be incorporated into the program for national economic and social development.

Article 4. The State Council's Public Health Administration is in charge of the national work for maternal and infant health care, gives guidance to administrations at different levels and areas in light of their respective conditions, and conducts supervision and administration of such work around the country.

Other relevant departments of the State Council should, within their functions and duties, coordinate with the public health administration in promoting the work of maternal and infant health care

Article 5. The state encourages and supports the education and scientific research in the field of maternal and infant health care, promotes advanced and practical technology for maternal and infant health care, and popularizes the scientific knowledge about maternal and infant health care.

Article 6. Organizations and individuals with outstanding performance in the work of maternal and infant health care and outstanding achievements in the scientific research in maternal and infant health care should be awarded.

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Chapter II. Premarital Health Care

Article 7. Medical and health care organs should offer premarital health care services to the citizens.

Premarital health care services include:

- (1) Premarital hygienic guidance: Education in the knowledge concerning sex hygiene, reproduction, and hereditary diseases;
- (2) Premarital hygienic consultation: Offering medical opinions on marrying, health care for child bearing, and other problems;
- (3) Premarital medical checkups: Conducting medical checkups on men and women preparing for marriage to discover diseases likely to affect their marriage and reproduction.

Article 8. A premarital medical checkup should include examinations for the following diseases:

- (1) Serious hereditary diseases;
- (2) Legal contagious diseases;
- (3) Relevant mental disorders.

After the premarital medical checkup, the medical and health care organ should issue a certificate on the premarital medical checkup.

Article 9. When either one of the couple preparing for marriage is found to be in the infective stage of a legal contagious disease or at the pathogenic stage of a relevant mental disorder during the premarital medical checkup, the doctor should offer medical opinions and the couple should postpone their marriage.

Article 10. When either one of the couple is diagnosed to have a serious hereditary disease, which is medically deemed unsuitable for reproduction, the doctor should explain the situation and offer medical opinions to the couple. The couple may marry if they agree to take long-lasting contraceptive measures or give up child bearing by undergoing ligation; this does not apply to those whose marriage is prohibited by articles in the "Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China."

Article 11. Should persons undergoing premarital medical checkups have any objections to the results of checkups, they may apply for a medical technical certification and obtain a certificate in this regard.

Article 12. When a couple register their marriage, they should have the certificates of premarital medical checkups or medical technical certification with them.

Article 13. Provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal people's governments should formulate rules for the implementation of premarital medical checkup system in light of their respective actual conditions.

Provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal people's governments should set rational charges for premarital medical checkups and grant a reduction or exemption of the charges to people from outlying and poor areas or those who have difficulties paying for the checkups.

Chapter III. Health Care During Pregnancy and Childbirth

Article 14. Medical and health care organs should provide health care services to child-bearing, pregnant, and lying-in women during their gestation and lying-in periods.

Health care services contain the following:

- (1) Health care guidance for mothers and infants: Offering medical opinions for conceiving healthy children and for the cause, treatment, and prevention of serious hereditary diseases, iodine deficiency diseases, and other endemic diseases.
- (2) Health care for pregnant and lying-in women: Providing consultation and guidance pertaining to hygiene, nutrition, and mental care for pregnant and lying-in women, as well as regular prenatal examinations and other medical and health care services.
- (3) Fetal health care: Monitoring and protecting, as well as providing consultation and medical guidance for the growth of fetuses; and
- (4) Infantile health care: Providing medical and health care services for the growth, feeding, and nursing of infants.

Article 15. Medical and health care organs should provide medical guidance for pregnant women having contracted serious diseases or having taken deformity-causing substances, whose pregnancy may endanger the life of pregnant women themselves or seriously affect their health and normal growth of fetuses.

Article 16. When a doctor discovers or suspects child-bearing couples of contracting serious hereditary diseases, he or she should offer a medical opinion; and the childbearing couples should take appropriate measures based on the doctor's opinion.

Article 17. When a doctor discovers or suspects pregnant women of fetal abnormality during prenatal examinations, he or she should conduct prenatal diagnostic tests on the pregnant women.

Article 18. When one of the following circumstances is discovered during prenatal diagnostic tests, the doctor should explain the circumstance to both husband and wife and give a medical opinion on terminating the pregnancy:

- (1) Fetuses have contracted serious hereditary diseases;
- (2) Fetuses have serious deformity; and

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(3) Due to serious illness, continuation of pregnancy may endanger the life of pregnant women or seriously harm their health.

Article 19. When termination of a pregnancy or ligation is performed on pregnant women, it is necessary to obtain their signature of consent, or the signature of consent from guardians in the case that pregnant women are legally incompetent.

Termination of a pregnancy or ligation performed according to the provisions of this law is free of charge.

Article 20. Before a woman who has given birth to seriously defective infants conceives again, both husband and wife should undergo medical examinations at a medical and health care organ at or above the county level.

Article 21. Doctors and delivery personnel should strictly abide by the relevant operational procedures and should strive to improve delivery techniques and service quality to prevent and reduce injuries during delivery.

Article 22. Pregnant women who cannot reach a hospital should have their babies delivered by midwives using sterilized procedures.

Article 23. Medical and health care organs and personnel engaged in family delivery shall issue infant birth certificates printed and distributed uniformly according to the regulations of the State Council's Public Health Administration; deaths of lying-in women and infants and deformity of new births should be reported to the public health administration.

Article 24. Medical and public health organs provide pregnant women with guidance in scientific child-rearing, reasonable nutrition, and breast-feeding.

Medical and public health organs provide physical examinations and preventive inoculations for infants; as well as the step-by-step medical and health care services of screening for diseases of new births, and of preventing and curing frequently occurring and common diseases among babies.

Chapter IV. Technical Certification

Article 25. Local people's governments at and above the county level may set up medical technical certification organizations to conduct medical technical certifications on any disagreement regarding the results of premarital medical checkups, diagnoses of hereditary diseases, and prenatal diagnostic tests.

Article 26. Personnel engaged in medical technical certification must have clinical experiences and knowledge of genetic medicine and must possess the specialized technical job title of "doctor-in-charge" or above.

Composite members of medical technical certification organizations shall be nominated by the public health

administration and appointed by the people's government at the corresponding level.

Article 27. A withdrawal system is implemented in medical technical certification. Certification of personnel who have conflicts of interests with litigants which may affect the impartiality of certification should be withdrawn.

Chapter V. Administration

Article 28. People's governments at all levels should take measures to intensify the work of maternal and infant health care; improve the level of medical and health care services; vigorously prevent and control the high incidence of endemic diseases, which are caused by environmental factors and are seriously harmful to the health of mothers and infants; and advance the development of undertakings for maternal and infant health care.

Article 29. Public health administrations of people's governments at and above the county level administer the work of maternal and infant health care within their respective administrative divisions.

Article 30. Medical and health-care organs designated by public health administrations of provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal people's governments take charge of the monitoring and technical guidance concerning maternal and infant health care within their respective administrative divisions.

Article 31. According to the stipulations of the Public Health Administration under the State Council, medical and health-care organs take charge of the work of maternal and infant health care within their functions and duties, establish work standards for medical and health care, improve medical and technical levels, take various measures to make things convenient for the people, and properly conduct the work of maternal and infant health-care services.

Article 32. When a medical and health-care organ conducts premarital medical checkups, diagnoses of hereditary diseases, prenatal diagnostic tests, ligation, and termination of pregnancies in accordance with this law, it should meet the terms and technical standards stipulated by the Public Health Administration under the State Council and receive the approval of public health administration of the people's government at or above the county level.

Identification of the gender of a fetus through technological means is strictly forbidden unless it is necessary on medical grounds.

Article 33. Personnel engaged in the diagnoses of hereditary diseases and prenatal diagnostic tests as stipulated in this law must pass assessments of public health administrations of provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal people's governments and obtain corresponding certificates of qualification.

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Personnel engaged in premarital medical checkups, ligation, termination of pregnancies as stipulated in this law and personnel engaged in family delivery must pass assessments of public health administrations of people's governments at or above the county level and obtain corresponding certificates of qualification.

Article 34. Personnel engaged in the work of maternal and infant health care should strictly observe professional ethics and keep secrets for interested parties.

Chapter VI. Legal Responsibility

Article 35. Public health administrations of people's governments at and above the county level should stop, and may warn or fine according to the circumstances, those who have not obtained relevant certificates of qualification issued by the state, but have one of the following practices:

- (1) Engaging in premarital medical checkups, diagnoses of hereditary diseases, prenatal diagnostic tests, or medical technical certification;
- (2) Conducting termination of pregnancies;
- (3) Issuing relevant medical certificates stipulated in this law.

The relevant medical certificates as stated in the third section of this article are invalid.

Article 36. Those who conduct termination of pregnancies or terminate pregnancies through other means without certificates of qualification issued by the state and cause a person's death, disability, loss or basic loss of work ability shall be investigated and affixed with criminal responsibility according to Articles 134 and 135 of the Criminal Law.

Article 37. When a person engaged in the work of maternal and infant health care violates the stipulations of this law to issue fake relevant medical certificates or perform the identification of a fetus's gender, the medical and health care organ or public health administration should mete out administrative punishment according to the circumstances. If the case is serious, the person involved should be deprived of his operating qualification according to law.

Chapter VII. Supplementary Provisions

Article 38. Definitions of terms used in this law:

"Legal contagious diseases" refers to AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, leprosy, and other contagious diseases medically deemed as having impacts on marriage and reproduction, which are stipulated in the "Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention of Contagious Diseases."

"Serious hereditary diseases" refers to congenital diseases caused by hereditary factors, which are medically deemed as not suitable for child bearing because such

diseases make patients lose total or partial ability to live independently and have a high potential to be passed to the next generation.

"Relevant mental disorders" refers to schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis, and other major psychoses.

"Prenatal diagnostic tests" refers to diagnostic tests on fetuses which are aimed at discovering congenital defects and hereditary diseases.

Article 39. This law will come into force on 6 June 1995.

Appendix: Relevant articles in the Criminal Law

Article 134. Whoever intentionally injures the person of another is to be sentenced to not more than three years of fixed-term imprisonment or criminal detention.

Whoever commits the crime in the preceding paragraph and causes a person's serious injury is to be sentenced to not less than three years and not more than seven years of fixed-term imprisonment; if he causes a person's death, he is to be sentenced to not less than seven years of fixed-term imprisonment. Where this law has other stipulations, matters are to be handled in accordance with such stipulations.

Article 135. Whoever negligently injures another and causes him serious injury is to be sentenced to not more than two years of fixed-term imprisonment or criminal detention; when the circumstances are especially odious, the sentence is to be not less than two years and not more than seven years of fixed-term imprisonment. Where this law has other stipulations, matters are to be handled in accordance with such stipulations.

Doctors Concerned Over Endocrine Disorders

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 31 (XINHUA)—Ailments such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes are rising sharply in China and have caused concerns among Chinese doctors.

Experts say that as Chinese people's living standards have improved largely over the past decade and their life expectancy expanded, incidence of diseases related to endocrine disorder including diabetes and osteoporosis (a disease of loose bone structure) also increased.

Shi Yifan, a chief member of the Chinese Society of Endocrinology and head of the endocrinology department of the Beijing Union Hospital, said Chinese doctors are paying increasingly more attention to such diseases.

All major hospitals in Chinese cities have set up department of endocrinology to study and treat such diseases. Some of them have scored achievements at international

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