

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof and the circumstances leading to intervention of the High Court in the matter; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the hospital authorities to ensure compliance of the Court's directive and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The directions were given by the High Court during the proceeding of a case relating to improvement of Burns Wards of Safdarjung Hospital. The direction was issued on the basis of a report submitted by a team of lawyers appointed by the Court.

(c) All the Heads of Departments including Nursing Superintendent and Engineers of the CPWD have been asked to personally supervise the work of the staff working under their respective Departments and monitor the cleanliness of the area pertaining to them. Besides this the Sanitation Monitoring Committee has been directed to improve the Sanitation in the hospital.

Privatisation of Cleanliness in Safdarjung Hospital

451. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Safdarjung in a mess-Doctors don't trust hospital reports, which appeared in the Hindustan Times City dated 2nd October, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts, reported in the news-items; and

(c) the action taken by Government to privatise the cleanliness in the hospital and to check the deteriorating conditions therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item reported, inter-alia, about the non-satisfactory condition of the hospital with regard to cleanliness, non-cleanliness of the water tank since last April, non-functioning of the CSSD Unit leading to shortage of glass syringes, coming back of linen from laundry with blood stains, presence of malbas in the hospital premises, non-functioning of C.T. Scan, recycling of syringes etc.

(c) The matter for privatisation of sanitary services in certain areas of Hospital was taken up with Central Advisory Contract Labour Board. However, the Board did not agree. The sanitation in the hospital is attended to and monitored by a Sanitation Monitoring Committee. The sumpwell was cleaned in December, 1998 and overhead tank in June, 1999. The CSSD Unit is functioning properly. Disposable syringes are supplied where glass syringes are not available. All the areas in the hospital are

supplied with sterilized gloves. No instance of recycling of syringes has been reported. The CT Scan which was out of order for want of CT Scan Tube, is functioning at present.

Conditions in Government Hospitals

452. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines/drugs/ortho items are generally not available in Central Government and the State Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to evaluate the situation;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various other shortcomings existing in Government hospitals like LNJP, DDU, Safdarjung, as appearing in Hindustan Times, City dated 29th October, 1999; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of life saving, essential medicines and basic ortho itmes in Central Government hospitals and hospitals under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The laboratory investigations and operation of equipments is done by trained technical personnel under the supervision of Consultants in laboratories and the other departments in Central Government hospitals in Delhi. In Safdarjung Hospital, six equipments of various departments are not functioning and action has been initiated to make them functional. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no such irregularities have come to notice in respect of hospitals under their administrative control.

Effectiveness of BCG Vaccine

453. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a fifteen year study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research has come up with the revelation that India's only available tuberculosis vaccine (BCG) does not work;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the US stopped BCG as a vaccine many years ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The recently published ICMR report of