

Deaths due to TB, Pneumonia and Bronchial Asthma

2291. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recent study has been made by Government with regard to the increase/decrease in the annual deaths of persons in the country due to tuberculosis and death of children due to pneumonia and bronchial asthma;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how does it compare with other developing countries;

(c) the reasons attributed for failure of the various health programmes taken up by Government in case the study has shown rise in the number of annual deaths; and

(d) the strategy contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Such study has been conducted for Tuberculosis. It is estimated that about 5 lakhs people die of TB in the country every year. The age specific data of mortality on account of TB is not available. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had supported a study on "Prevalence of Bronchial Asthma in school children in Delhi" carried out at VP Chest Institute.

(b) The ICMR supported study revealed a prevalence of Asthma to be 15.7% amongst school children in the age group of 4 to 17 years.

(c) Consequent upon the implementation of National TB Control Programme in the country, the death rate has decreased from 80 per lakh population in 1970 to 53 per lakh population in 1993. Under the Revised National TB Control Programme, about 4% of the patients put on treatment die as against estimated 23% under the previous programme.

(d) The strategy to control TB was revised and a new World Bank assisted Project viz. The Revised National TB Control Programme is being implemented in the country from 1997-98, based on Directly Observed Treatment - Short Course Strategy. More than 400 million population has already been covered under this revised TB Control strategy. The project districts under this strategy have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which is approximately double that under the earlier programme, and death rate of about 4%. It is therefore

planned to expand the revised strategy to cover a population of 500 million by 2002 and 800 million by 2004. Under the RCH Programme interventions for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections are being provided. Medical and Para-Medical Staff is being trained and Co-trimoxazole tablets for treatment of pneumonia in children under age of five years is provided to the sub-centres as a part of the drug kit. In addition the immunization programme provides protection against six vaccine preventable diseases, some of which cause respiratory morbidity.

Availability of Cheap Medicines for TB

†2292. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tuberculosis patients are in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medicines available for this disease are very costly whereas the persons affected by it are totally poor and helpless; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to provide medicines of this disease in the market at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) India accounts for 1/3rd of global TB burden. About 14 lac new TB cases are detected and put on treatment under National TB Control Programme every year.

(b) and (c) The approximate cost for full treatment of a TB patient comes to around Rs. 280 to Rs. 700, depending upon the treatment regimen required for treating the patients. Under National TB Control Programme, anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients.

Comprehensive plan to control HIV infection

2293. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any revamped comprehensive plan to control and/or combat the menacing diseases of HIV infection, particularly AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.