

[20 November, 2001]

RAJYASABHA

New Code of Conduct for Medical Practitioners

† 22. SHRIBACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to frame a new code of conduct for medical practitioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to improve the quality of medical treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Regulations on Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics for medical practitioners are being finalised by the Central Government in consultation with other concerned Departments.

Anthrax cases in the Country

23. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the Anthrax cases in several parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the number of persons affected by Anthrax reported in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any scheme to tackle spread of Anthrax cases in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Natural anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country.

† Original notice of the question was received to Hindi.

The data available with National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is given below:

States	1999		2000		2001	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Karnataka	8	5	NU		4	2
Orissa	Nil	3	43		Nil	

(c) and (d) Government has initiated the following actions:

(i) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September, 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(ii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelopes/package.

(iii) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(iv) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home & Health, Director of Health Services from various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(v) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vi) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelopes/packages are being received for tests.

Anthrax Exposures

24. DR. ALLADIP. RAJKUMAR:

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