

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There has been remarkable growth in clinical research activities in India in the last two years;

In the report submitted in 2003 by Dr. Mashelkar's Committee on drug regulatory issues, it was emphasized that India has some inherent and natural advantages in Clinical Research. India's highly skilled medical fraternity, many world class medical institutions and large treatment naive population highlights India's potential for clinical research.

(c) and (d) Clinical Trials in India have to be conducted as per norms prescribed in Drugs and Cosmetics Rules & Good Clinical Practices (GCP) guidelines. Para 2.4.7. of GCP guidelines requires the sponsors to pay compensation for patients who may suffer any unforeseen harm. Each organization conducting clinical trials has to have an Ethics Committee that is responsible for the safeguard of the rights, safety and well being of the study subjects. India is the first country outside the ICH (International Conference of Harmonization) region to have systemic, elaborate and extensive clinical trial inspection programme.

These measures will significantly enhance standards of clinical trials and will address the perception about exploitation of Indian study subjects especially the poor and illiterate.

NSSO survey on PHCs and CHCs

2641. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the findings of NSSO survey on the crumbling infrastructure of primary health centres and community health centres in the country;

(b) if so, what are the major findings of the survey;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would monitor the conditions of PHCs and CHCs beyond the usual consultations with State Governments;

(e) if so, what are the factors causing such a situation; and

(f) the proactive steps Government would propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 43 districts of the country, 39.23% Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 66.51% Community Health Centres (CHCs) have Operation Theater and 46.30% PHCs and 90.79% CHCs have Operational Pathological Labs. 26.3% PHCs and 46.9% CHCs have exclusive tap water source. 17.5% PHCs and 12.3% CHCs, as per the survey has private hand pump and 32.6% PHCs and 12.9 CHCs have public hand pump as the source of water.

(d) to (f) Keeping in view the poor conditions of the health facilities, Government has launched National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] under which upgradation of facilities, support to infrastructure, supplementary manpower etc., have been taken up. Under the NRHM, an amount of Rs. 25,000/- per PHC has been approved as united fund for local health action. Also, Annual Maintenance Grant @ Rs. 50,000/- per PHC has been approved for maintenance and improvement of physical infrastructure of PHCs. For upgradation of CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), the funds have been provided to all the States/UTs as per the State Governments Annual Project Implementation Plan under NRHM. Monitoring and Evaluation of the progress made *vis-a-vis* the release of funds is also one of the approved activities under NRHM.

Alcoholism and health

2642. **SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study conducted by NIMHANS and WHO reveal that alcoholism has assumed epidemic proportions in the country;

(b) whether the study finds that the age of the onset of drinking has fallen from the earlier 29 to present 19 years and whether almost 33 per cent of the population consume alcohol regularly; and

(c) whether the evils of alcoholism on citizen's health... productivity