

China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The import of drugs from unregistered source is not permitted under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules 1945.

The import of drugs is handled alongwith other goods at the port of entry. Drugs being imported into the country are in the control of customs department which as per norms refers the cases to CDSCO for no objection for the purpose of import. After receiving no objection the drugs are released by the custom authorities. The system is well equipped and functioning properly.

Proposal for upgradation of Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Shimla

803. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Shimla under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the work of upgradation of said college is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) It is proposed to upgrade Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, at an outlay of Rs.150 Cr. comprising Central contribution of Rs.125 Cr. and State's contribution of Rs.25 crore, in the 2nd phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Union Cabinet has approved the proposal on 5.2.2009. Project Consultant has been appointed and necessary modalities for implementation of the upgradation scheme are being worked out with the State Government.

(c) The work of upgradation will be started by the end of 2009.

Isolated wards for swine flu patients

804. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many swine flu cases have been reported in the country;

(b) what are the preventive measures taken by Government to curb the outbreak of the disease;

(c) whether special medical teams are functioning at International Airports and ports to detect the disease from foreigners who visit India; and

(d) whether any isolated wards are provided to patients who suffer from this disease in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As on 7th July, 2009 there have been 153 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu] in the country.

(b) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

(c) Yes. Medical teams are functioning at 22 International Airports and sea ports to detect the disease among passengers coming to India.

(d) Yes. Isolation facilities have been identified and attached to all the International Airports and sea ports to treat cases of Influenza A H1N1.

Shortage of vaccines

805. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to address the shortage of vaccines in various States, following the closure of public sector manufacturing units last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is looking for private companies to meet such demand for the affected States; and

(c) if so, how does Government proposes to address the cost and accessibility implications that are bound to arise from such a step?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) After the suspension of vaccine production at vaccine Institutes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, vaccine procurement is being carried out from other PSUs as well as private sector to meet the present requirement.

(c) Vaccine procurement is being carried out on the basis of competitive rates by inviting tenders from other PSUs as well as indigenous private sector units to meet the present requirement. There is no problem in accessibility of vaccines and at present there is no shortage of vaccines.