

(c) how many pensioners' claim applications are lying pending with CGHS for more than 2 to 6 months particularly in Delhi, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The rates for treatment of cancer patients that emerged out of the tender process of 2004 were substantially lower than the rates in vogue from 2001-02. Consequently, most cancer hospitals refused to accept the revised rates. In order not to deprive CGHS beneficiaries. The treatment for cancer related illnesses, it was decided to permit CGHS beneficiaries to get treatment in any hospital providing treatment for cancer and get reimbursement at 2001-02 rates.

(c) No bill of CGHS pensioner beneficiary for cancer treatment is pending in CGHS which are in the range of two months and months and six months.

Airport screening for swine flu

2846. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that airport testing for swine flu has proved to be a futile exercise;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the World Health Organization has not recommended airport screening; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Airport screening limited the spread of pandemic influenza A H1N1 (Swine flu) during the early part of the pandemic. No tests were done at the airports for swine flu.

(c) and (d) Yes; World Health Organisation does not believe that entry and exit screening for Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 would work to reduce the spread of this disease.

Proposal to open new medical colleges

2847. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medical colleges in the country at present run by Government trusts and societies, State-wise;
- (b) the number of doctors produced by these colleges annually;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to open new colleges either by Government or private firms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) At present there are 300 medical colleges in the country,