

[14 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

The Government of India has also launched an Integrated disease Surveillance Programme in November, 2004, to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including water borne and vector borne diseases so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to such diseases could be reduced.

Opening of CHCs and PHCs

†*539. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for opening the Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres by Government are still based on the 1991 Census;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the proposal to start these Health Centres on the basis of the Census of the year 2001; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM 2005-2012) envisages approval of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres as per 2001 Population Norms and Work-load of the health facility. NRHM seeks to strengthen the health care delivery system in rural areas by provision of funds for the upgradation of health centres including physical infrastructure, manpower, medicine availability etc. State Governments are required to prepare plan for establishing new health facilities and upgrading the existing health facilities and incorporate the requirement of funds for the purpose in their annual Programme Implementation Plan under NRHM.

Committee to examine catering system

†*540. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court had set-up any Committee recently to examine the catering services in Railways;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the said Committee, after examining the catering services had recommended that the catering services need radical changes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures his Ministry is considering to take to bring improvement there in view of the incidents of passengers falling ill frequently due to contaminated food; and

(e) the measures being taken to maintain the standard of food in the prestigious trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee has pointed out certain deficiencies and has made suggestions which include engagement of professionally qualified staff, understanding the concept of Mass Food Production, observation of Food Production Safety Norms, garbage disposal system, standardization of recipes, staff training programme in hygiene, regular cleaning of kitchen and pest control schedule etc. with a view of effect improvement in the catering services of Indian Railways. The matter is sub judice.

(d) and (e) No contaminated food is supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. Improvement in catering services is an ongoing process. This includes maintenance of hygiene, standard and quality of food services, introduction of good quality packaging, use of biodegradable material, revision of menus, procurement of raw material from approved sources etc. Regular/surprise checks are conducted by the railway administration and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to monitor the catering services and remedial action is taken. Besides, regular meetings are conducted with the licensees who are supplying food in prestigious trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains. Steps like intensive quality inspection, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification, Food Audit etc. have been initiated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Exploitation of Indian Ocean and EEZ for Tuna fishing

3967. DR. M.A. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: