

[14 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

cancer patients in the country. Tobacco is one of the main causes of cancer including Oral Cancer.

As per revised scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of cancer by promoting health education and creating awareness. Financial assistance is provided for setting up Radiotherapy unit in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing cancer treatment facilities. In addition, comprehensive cancer detection testing facilities in respective regions/States are provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centres developed over the years under NCCP. Financial assistance is also provided to persons below poverty line from Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for treatment of cancer. During Eleventh Plan, special focus is made to expand District Cancer Control Programme for early detection and management of cancer and to create infrastructure by upgrading existing RCC, creating more RCCs, setting up of cancer treatment centres across the country with a view to producing quality manpower and treatment facilities.

Water borne diseases

†*538. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation has warned about increase in water borne diseases caused by mosquitoes and also in the area affected by these diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far, for prevention of diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Cholera, viral hepatitis, enteric fever and acute diarrhoeal diseases are the main water borne diseases caused by contamination of water with virus and bacteria, whereas diseases caused by mosquitoes which mainly breed in water are vector borne diseases like dengue, malaria, filariasis, viral encephalitis etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

World Health Organization, while assessing the association between climate change and health has projected that under warmer climate conditions, stagnant water and scarcity of water will increase chances of cholera outbreaks. Changes in temperature and moisture would also increase the morbidity and mortality of vector borne diseases like malaria, Japanese encephalitis and dengue.

Health is primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for water borne and vector borne diseases through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

A comprehensive National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is implemented through the States for prevention and control of vector borne diseases caused by mosquitoes. The strategies for control of vector borne diseases include disease management through early case detection and treatment, epidemic preparedness and rapid response. Integrated vector management includes residual spraying, use of insecticide treated bed nets and anti larval measures.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases.

An integrated approach has been initiated with Department of Drinking Water Supply to provide the technical support to monitor the quality of drinking water in different States so as to prevent occurrence of water borne diseases.

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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.