

and the Schedule Y for clinical trials also give detailed requirements. ICMR conducted a survey of Institutional Ethics Committee during 2003-04. Out of the 233 institutions who responded, 178 had IECs. ICMR and GCP guidelines prescribed the structure and procedures to be followed by the IECs. The survey indicated that by and large the existing Committees are constituted as per the guidelines. Steps have already been initiated to legislate the ICMR Ethical Guidelines into an Act so that it becomes mandatory that all institutions doing clinical research should have IEC as per proposed norms.

(d) There are 200 clinical trials approved by regulatory authority received in the last three years. Category-wise and State-wise information about these clinical trials is not maintained.

### **Hepatitis Vaccine**

†3109. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Hepatitis disease is taking a serious turn by taking more and more people in its grip.

(b) whether Government hospitals are well equipped with the Hepatitis vaccine; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There are five common types of Hepatitis, viz., A, B, C, D and E. Hepatitis—A is benign as compared to others. Out of the remaining four, there is vaccine only for prevention of Hepatitis B. India has the second largest pool of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers in the world and contributes to nearly 15% of the entire pool of HBV carriers in the world.

Hepatitis B is preventable by ensuring precautionary measures, including vaccination. The Government has launched a pilot project for immunization against Hepatitis B free of cost for children below one year only. Hepatitis B vaccination has commenced and is continuing in 15 cities since 2002-03 and in 32 districts and in Andaman & Nicobar islands since 2003-04. Besides, vaccine for Hepatitis B is available in the country at affordable prices.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi