

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the doctors prescribe high priced medicines where cheap alternatives produced by public sector companies are available;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to intervene in this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) No. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued instructions to all the Central Government Hospitals and Autonomous Institutions under the Ministry to prescribe good quality generic drugs/medicines. It has also been instructed that whenever any branded drug/medicine is prescribed by the Central Government Hospital/Autonomous Institutions, it shall invariably indicate any other equivalent generic drug/medicine.

Family welfare centres in Himachal Pradesh

†1717. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of family welfare centres in Himachal Pradesh, especially in rural areas;

(b) whether Government contemplates to open few more family welfare centres in Himachal Pradesh, especially in backward, hilly and rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of amount allocated to Himachal Pradesh by Government for maintenance of family welfare centres during the last three years and whether the amount is adequate for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) As per the data available in the Bulletin on Rural Health Statistics, updated upto March, 2009, a total of 2071 Sub Centres, 449 Primary Health Centres and 73 Community Health Centres are functioning in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The rural Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are opened by respective State Government depending upon their priorities and needs which is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

incorporated in their annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare examines the same and funds are released to State Governments under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on the recommendations of the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) for actual implementation of the plan.

(d) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), National Programme Coordination Committee has approved an amount of Rs. 207.10 lakhs, Rs.1801 lakhs and Rs. 2700 lakhs for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively for Hospital strengthening and new construction/renovation.

Funds allocated to Bihar under NRHM

1718. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Bihar under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and utilization thereof for the past three financial years;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain districts of Bihar are worst affected by arsenic contamination and the underground water of these districts are not fit for human consumption; and

(c) what helps are provided by the Ministry to the State Government of Bihar to combat this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) During the past three years, an amount of Rs. 350.24 crores during 2007-08, Rs. 821.18 crore during 2008-09 and Rs. 648.77 crores during 2009-10 has been allocated to the State of Bihar under the NRHM.

(b) and (c) As on 1.4.2010, there are 1590 arsenic affected habitations spread over various districts of Bihar and details are given in the Statement (See below). The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) under which upto 65% funds can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas. During 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 341.46 crore has been allocated to the State of Bihar under the NRDWP.