

MORTALITY AMONG CHILDREN

100. SHRI R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one-third of the children in India die before attaining the age of five and that children account for 55 per cent of clinical attendance at primary health centres in the country;

(b) if so, whether the problem has been analysed: and

(c) if so, with what results and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the health care of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) Between 20 to 25 per cent of children die before they attain the age of five.

Data from a few primary health centres show that between 50 to 55 per cent of the outdoor attendance comprises of children.

(b) Yes.

(c) Analysis of the cause of death among children under five years shows that they fall into two main groups:

(1) Prematurity low birth weight, Asphyxia and congenital defects.

(2) Infections, gastro-intestinal and respiratory and mal-nutrition.

Measures taken to improve the health status of children are:

(/) Improvement of medical care for mothers and children both institutional and domiciliary.

(H) Control of communicable diseases -

(a) National programmes like the National Malaria Eradication

Programme, the National Smallpox Eradication Programme, Tuberculosis Control Programme etc.

(b) Local production of vaccines to immunise children against diseases like Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Poliomyelitis and Tetanus.

(Hi) Improvement of nutrition of mothers and children.

(;v) Provision of safe drinking water and improvement of sanitation.

(v) Training of personnel, medical and para-medical.

SECOND INDIAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

101. SHRI R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second Indian Petroleum Conference was held in Baroda in February, 1969 to discuss technical matters concerning exploration and production against the background of the working experience of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited;

(b) if so, what decisions were taken at the Conference; and

(c) the steps that have been taken so far or proposed to be taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHA-VAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Indian Petroleum Conference is a forum for Indian oil technicians and scientists for broadening their knowledge of the subjects by exchanging views and experiences on problems met with in petroleum exploration and exploitation.

77 papers on different scientific subjects were read and discussed at the 1969 Conference., These Conferences