

***Research on nano-medicines***

2115. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the research on nanomedicines is taking place in India;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof;
- (c) whether any special schemes were formulated to promote this area of study; and
- (d) if not, whether Government would initiate steps for the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) are promoting research in the field of nanomedicine. A Task Force activity was initiated in 2009 to promote translation research in the field of nanomedicine and proposals were initiated in different areas of translational research. ICMR is also promoting investigator initiated studies through *ad-hoc* project schemes and Fellowship Programme at doctoral and post doctoral research. Twelve such projects and 8 fellowships have been supported under nanomedicine.

***Maternal deaths in the country***

2116. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest survey report of the Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India, nearly 70,000 maternal deaths are taking place in the country every year;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that nearly five per cent of the total infant deaths annually are due to nutritional deficiencies in the country;
- (c) whether any targets have been set for bringing down maternal and child mortality rates;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) how, in view of the above, the Ministry is planning to address the issue holistically either under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) or any other schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the latest Registrar General of India — Sample Registration System (RGI-SRS) Report

published in April, 2009, for the period 2004-06, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India is 254 per 100,000 live births. This translates into approximately 67,000 maternal deaths.

(b) No, Nutritional Deficiency is an underlying cause of certain morbidity and mortality among infants but not a direct cause of infant deaths.

(c) to (d) Yes, Goal under NRHM is to bring down MMR to less than 100 per 100,000 live births by 2012 and bring down Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) to 30 per 1000 live births.

(e) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II, the following interventions are implemented to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality:—

1. Promotion of institutional deliveries through Janani Suraksha Yojana.
2. Capacity building of health care providers in skills of obstetric and child care.
3. Establishment of safe delivery points and specialized new born care units.
4. Provision of referral transport for pregnant women and sick new borns.
5. Improving Infant and young child feeding practices including promotion of breastfeeding.
6. Universal immunization of children.
7. Provision of home based care for mother and newborn through ASHA.
8. Early detection and appropriate management of Diarrheal and Acute Respiratory diseases in children.
9. Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation to pregnant and lactating women and children for prevention and treatment of anemia.
10. Establishment of Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) to address severe and acute malnutrition in children.
11. Health and nutrition education to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food as well as food items that promote iron absorption.
12. Under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) of Ministry of Women and Child Development, interventions to improve nutritional status of children including pregnant women and lactating mothers.

***Carrying out of clinical trials***

†2117. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.