

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) According to information received from Delhi and Rajasthan, 251 persons fell sick and one person died due to consumption of Kuttu flour.

(b) No such incident was reported by any State/U.T.

(c) As per information provided by States/UTs on the working of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the average adulteration of food items on the basis of samples collected in 2009, was 11.14%.

(d) and (e) Food Safety and Standards Act, a new comprehensive legislation, which consolidates the laws relating to food, has come into force from 05.08.2011.

Hike in charges for treatment at AIIMS

1050. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has hiked or proposes to hike the charges for treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said move would adversely affect the poor patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Governing Body of AIIMS has approved a proposal to introduce package charges for patients admitted to private ward. The revenue so generated is to be used for driving down cost of treatment in the general ward. This decision has, however, not been implemented as most of the Departments have not finalised the components of treatment packages.

Poor patients would not be affected as no enhancement of rates has been approved for general wards.

Eradication of polio in the country

1051. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current estimates of polio incidence in the country;

(b) whether the country will be polio free in two years time;

(c) whether particular States have been specifically targeted for polio eradication drives; and