

(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

(d) the details of Government's plans to this end especially achievements in the year 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Only one Polio case has been reported in India in 2011. No. Polio case has been reported for more than six months in the country. This is 96% decline over last year for the same period.

(c) and (d) The polio virus circulation in the year 2010 and 2011 has mainly been outside the traditional polio endemic States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. As per the recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group on Polio, apart from the two National rounds covering all States, six sub national rounds have been carried out in the high risk areas for polio transmission. These areas are parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand,, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh and Delhi. Mop-up round are also carried out in response to any wild polio virus detection. The steps taken to mitigate the risk of polio virus transmission are (i) introduction of bivalent polio vaccine in 2010, (ii) multipronged strategy to improve sanitation, hygiene, availability of clean water and control of diarrhea in 107 high risk blocks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, (iii) special micro plans to cover mobile and migrant populations and intensification of routine immunization, (iv) Emergency preparedness and response plan in the event of detection of wild polio virus.

Alternative model medical education system for rural areas

1052. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a new alternative model medical education system in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government is planning to introduce a 3½ year rural health care course — Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC), which has been framed after taking into consideration views of various stakeholders including States. The course proposed to be taught in the District Hospitals and is especially designed for those who have completed their schooling and passed their qualifying examination, i.e. 10 + 2 examination, from notified rural areas of the district. These professionals will be posted at the Sub-Centers.

Whistle-blower policy in PSEs

1053. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to put in place a whistle-blower policy for all the