

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Yes. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a part of the World Health Organization (WHO), in its press release dated 31.05.2011 has classified radiofrequency electro-magnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B), based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer associated with wireless phone use.

However, WHO has further stated that a large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use. WHO will conduct a formal risk assessment of all studied health outcomes from radiofrequency fields exposure by 2012.

(c) and (d) To study adverse effects of cell phone, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently initiated a study in Delhi to examine whether use of cell phone creates risk of neurological, cardiological, cancer, ENT and reproductive disorders. The efforts will also be made to measure specific absorption rate, power density wave length and frequency of RFR (Radio Frequency Radiation) emitted from various types of cell phones and cell phone towers under this study. The duration of the study is 5 years.

#### **Concerns over low expenditure on health sector**

†1654. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its concern over the adverse effects on the health of the Indian population due to low expenditure to be incurred on health sector by Government;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the amount, according to WHO, should be spent per capita on health in India by Government and the quantum of increase is required in such amount?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Government is not aware of any report of World Health Organization (WHO), expressing concern over the adverse effects on the health of the Indian population due to low expenditure incurred on health sector by Government.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) WHO has not specified per capita expenditure to be spent by Government on health in India. However, as per World Health Statistics (2011) brought out by WHO, the per capita expenditure on health by the Government, in India was US \$ 15 in 2008.

**Inadequate medical facilities in the country**

†1655. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical facilities available in the country is very inadequate as compared to that of world class average medical facilities;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(c) the shortcomings in medical facilities experienced in 2010-11 in the country; and

(d) the details of time bound and targeted plan to meet this inadequacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Health care is currently provided across the country through 314 Medical Colleges, 635 District Level health facilities, 944 Hospitals at Sub-district level, 4,535 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 23,673 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 1,47,069 Sub Centres (SCs) apart from health facilities in private sector.

(c) and (d) As per Rural Health Statistics, 2010 there is a short fall of 19,590 sub-centres, 4252 PHCs and 2115 CHCs across the country. Augmentation and improvement of public health facilities is one of the thrust areas of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Financial assistance is provided to States under NRHM for improvement in health infrastructure and augmentation of manpower. Up to the financial year 2010-11, 27,235 SCs, 8448 PHCs, 3111 CHCs and 547, District Hospitals have been taken up under NRHM for new construction/renovation/up-gradation works. To meet the shortages of manpower, 28070 doctors/specialists including AYUSH doctors, 55407 Staff Nurses/paramedics, 60268 Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) have been engaged on contractual basis

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