THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Yes. The study in question is unsupported by any clinical or epidemiological evidence. Experts have concluded that there is no cause of worry and chlorination of water make it safe for drinking purposes. Delhi Jal Board has also dispelled concerns about presence of drug resistant bacteria in drinking water.

Inadequate supply of medicines in

health centres in Assam

2258. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate supply of medicine occurred in civil hospitals, rural hospitals, primary health centres, subhealth centres even in the existing Government dispensary at Medical College Hospitals under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) during this monsoon season in Assam;

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

(c) the details of action taken thereupon; and

(d) the details of criterion fixed including the list of common minimum necessary medicines needed to be available through NRHM in the hospitals and health centres facilitating health services to the population living below poverty line in rural and remote areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has informed that there is no inadequate supply of medicines occurred in Civil Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, MPHC, SHC, SD, under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], Assam during the monsoon season. Under NRHM Assam does not supply medicines to the four medical colleges of the State.

Before the onset of monsoon. PHC drug kit was supplied to all the Health institutions of Assam. The supply of medicine was completed by March, 2011. ASHA drug kit was also supplied to around 28,798 ASHAs of the State. PHC Drug Kit comprises a total of 69 items and ASHA Drug Kit contains 13 items. The PHC drug kit was calculated on the basis of the HMIS report of each health institution depending on their no. of IPD, OPD case load & no. of institutional delivery conducted.

Moreover, 2 (two) no. of PHC Kits were supplied to each Civil Hospital; one each kit to all SDCH, CHC, 24X7PHC, SHC,PPP Tea Garden, Charitable Hospitals, Boat clinic, and Mobile Medical Units to ensure there is no shortfall of medicine.

(d) Government of Assam has informed that the item of essential drugs are derived from the Government of India Essential Drug list and Government of Assam Essential Drug List.

All the drugs which are supplied under NRHM, in Assam are available free of cost for all sections of the society including the BPL living in rural or remote areas of the State.

Spreading of Thalassaemia in the country

2259. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons suffering from the problem of Thalassaemia in India, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) what steps Government is taking to tackle this problem;

(c) whether any special fund or treatment is provided to the patients by Government;

(d) whether the reasons for spreading of Thalassaemia have been found, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is planning to introduce medical test to detect this medical condition before marriage; and

(f) what is the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in this regard and suggestion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At present there is no centralized or State-wise data of persons suffering from Thalassaemia available.

(b) The ICMR has conducted extensive research on Thalassemia. A multi-centric research on "community control of Thalassemia" was completed by ICMR in 6 States of the country viz. Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat. National Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai has also carried out research on Thalassemia in the last 2-3 decades.