

(c) whether this amount to harassment to the patient whom the specialist had recommended medicines for three months but for drawal of medicines, the patient has to visit the specialist every month to get the utilization certificate signed; and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Utilization certificate is required for the issue of medicines from second time onwards. The Life Saving Drugs are costly medicines. To avoid wastage/misuse, utilization certificate is required. This is to ensure the accountability of the stake holders like the users of the medicines and also the prescriber of the same.

(b) In case of injectables the utilization certificate is to be signed by the Specialist recommending the medicine besides the patient and counter signed by the CMO Incharge of the dispensary. The utilization certificate for tablets/capsules is to be signed by the beneficiary and counter signed by the CMO Incharge of the dispensary concerned.

(c) and (d) No. This does not amount to harassment to the patient. The medicines can be given for three months if the specialist has recommended it for three months and the utilization certificate is to be obtained by the patient for the next round. The effect of the CGHS is to make optimal utilization of resources with the least wastage.

#### **Clearing of backlog in vacancies in Safdarjung Hospitals, Delhi**

3030. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH KESARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to clear backlog vacancies in promotion to the posts of Senior Physiotherapist in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi;

(b) whether the steps involve clearing the backlog in reserved categories;

(c) whether the UPSC was consulted before sending the formal proposal;

(d) whether UPSC's objections were remedied in the time-bound manner as per DoPT norms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e)  
There are four vacant posts of Sr. Physiotherapist in Safdarjung Hospital. Out of these, one post is for reserved category.

In accordance with the Recruitment Rules for the above said post, a proposal for holding DPC was referred to UPSC who has made certain observations, for which action has already been initiated by Safdarjung Hospital/Ministry.

**Affidavit on deaths of children due to malnutrition**

†3031. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided not to file any affidavit in the Supreme Court in the matter of the number of children who die every year due to starvation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that 2438 children die every day due to malnutrition; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) No. As no such occasion has arisen, there is no such direction from Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

(c) and (d) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted, multisectoral and multidimensional issue. It is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity among children by reducing resistance to infections. Data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition in the country is not maintained centrally.

**Malnutrition deaths of children in the country**

3032. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 2.4 crore children are born each year out of which 17.8 lakh die because of different reasons before they cross the age of five and of these 46 per cent die due to malnutrition in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.