

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in Simran Jain case, has accepted the proposal of the Medical Council of India (MCI) to conduct common entrance test viz. National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) medical courses in the country and directed the Council to take such steps as are necessary to implement the NEET. Accordingly, the Central Government has constituted a Committee to finalize the modalities for implementation of NEET. Once implemented, the NEET would be applicable to all medical colleges which come under the ambit of MCI.

(b) and (c) A few State Governments have expressed apprehension about the proposed NEET which pertained to the syllabus, medium of test, reservation, etc. The Central Board of Secondary Education, which is the agency for conducting NEET for UG, has constituted an Advisory Committee consisting of Members from all States to address the issues of admission processes prevalent in various States like reservation, medium of test, etc.

#### **TB patients in the country**

2253. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent TB patients in India are under 50 years of age;

(b) whether it is also a fact that around 40 per cent of India's population is infected with the bacteria that causes tuberculosis (TB);

(c) whether it is also a fact that majority of bacterias are dormant TB carriers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (d) Yes. Approximately 40% of India's population is infected with TB bacilli. The bacteria remains in a dormant stage and majority of them remain free from the disease. All those who get infected do not necessarily develop TB disease. The life time risk of developing disease amongst those infected is only 10-15%.

#### **Supplying of medicines on credit basis**

2254. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has supplied medicines on a credit basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether this has resulted in outstanding dues;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures Government has adopted to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Since 2009, Medical Stores Organisation (MSO), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), has been supplying medicines on credit basis to those Government of India (GoI) organizations, which are registered with MSO. The registered GoI organisations are CGHS (except Delhi), Para Military Forces (CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP and CISF), and all Government Hospitals under MoHFW. MSO also supplies medicines to various organisations of the States/Union Territories and Local Bodies.

(c) Yes.

(d) Currently, all indenters are Government Organisations registered with Medical Store Organisation. MSO supplies medicines to these organisations on credit basis. Indenters clear their outstanding dues within the financial year but few indenters have not cleared their outstanding dues in time for various reasons like inadequate budget provision.

MSO procures and supplies life saving drugs to various organisations during emergencies arising out of natural calamities on the instructions of Director, Emergency Medical Relief. These organisations take time to clear their dues. As a result, outstanding dues are pending.

(e) As a remedial action, since the year 2009, MSO is not entertaining the indent of those indenters who have outstanding dues against them and are not under MoHFW.

Senior officers of MoHFW have been asked to pursue with States/UTs for early payment of outstanding dues

The pendency of dues has been brought down from Rs. 88.34 crores in 2009 to Rs. 64.30 crores by way of recovery from indenters.

#### **Draft National Vaccine Policy**

2255. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft National Vaccine Policy recommends Government to enter into advance marketing commitments with vaccine manufacturers and binds the present as well as future Governments to honour mandatorily those commitments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this policy has been publicized for public response and consultations; and