

(b) The Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) of deaths may occur during clinical trials due to various reasons. These could be disease related deaths like cancer, etc. or on account of administration and trial drugs to critical or terminally ill patients or side-effects or unrelated causes. Such deaths are investigated for causal relationship by investigator and by the medical experts of the sponsor.

As per available data, the number of Serious Adverse Events of deaths in all clinical trials reported during the last three years *viz.* 2009, 2010 and 2011 were 637, 668 and 438 respectively.

(c) In 22 cases in 2010, which were found to be trial-related deaths, compensation has been paid by the Sponsors /Clinical Research Organizations.

Online sale of medicines

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

- (a) whether Government has allowed online sale of medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Ministry would consider passing a Law or give specific instructions in this regard to prevent mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The sale of drugs in this country is regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, which require drugs to be sold in retail by the Registered Pharmacist only. Further, the drugs falling under schedule H and X of the said rules are required to be sold only on the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners. Online sale of drugs may promote sale of illegal/illicit drugs or irrational use of drugs.

Monitoring of India's polio-free status

111. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken to monitor India's polio-free status; and
- (b) since the 13 January, 2012 till date, how many booths have been set up along the Indo-Pak border to check the importation of polio-virus into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) The steps taken by the Government to monitor polio-free status are:

- (i) Sensitive Surveillance to detect polio cases. More than 35,000 reporting