

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) Yes. The High Level Expert Group on Universal Healthcare has recommended that the availability of free essential medicines should be ensured by increasing public spending on drug procurement from 0.1% to 0.5% of GDP to ensure universal access to essential drugs.

(c) No decision has been taken so far by the Government on the recommendations of the HLEG.

(d) Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) in which it has been proposed to bring the prices of 348 drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)-2011, which is based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and associated medicines under price control. The views/comments received on the draft NPPP-2011 have been examined and the issue of price control of NLEM-2011 has been placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM).

Male-female sex ratio

4268. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has outlined any comprehensive long term policy to improve declining male-female sex ratio in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of those measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is committed to strengthen effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act to address the declining male female sex ratio in the country. The drive to curb sex determination has been intensified through effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act as per details mentioned below:

- I. Central Supervisory Board (CSB) under the PNDT Act has been reconstituted. The 17th and 18th meetings of CSB have been held at an interval of six months on 4th June, 2011 and 14th January 2012.
- II. Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee have been scaled up. NIMC has been reconstituted and apart from inspections further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate Authorities against organizations found guilty of violations under the Act during inspections.

- III. Government of India has notified important amendments in rules under the Act, including :-
- Amendment to Rule 11 (2) of the PC & PNDT Rules, 1996 to provide for confiscation of unregistered machines and further punishment under the Act
 - Amendment to regulate the use of portable ultrasound equipment and services offered by mobile genetic clinics.
- IV. 17 states with the most skewed child sex ratio have been identified for concerted attention. A meeting of Health Secretaries of these States was first convened on 20th April 2011, followed by several review meetings.
- V. Operational guidelines for Grant in Aid to Non-Governmental Organizations have been revised to ensure targeted use of resources for awareness generation of the Act.
- VI. States have been asked to take advantage of funding available under NRHM for strengthening infrastructure and augmentation of human resources required for effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act.

Besides above, to bring about change in mindset of gender discrimination in society, support is being provided for BCC campaign in State's PIPs under NRHM.

Cancer with gastric origin

†4269. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report by the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, more people die in cases of cancer caused due to gastric problems in this country which is prevalent in majority of the people;

(b) if so, whether Government will make people more and more aware of this fact and the measures and precautions to be taken to prevent this; and

(c) the number of people succumbed to this type of cancer in the country during the last three years and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as per paper published by Tata Memorial Hospital

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.