

NRHM scam in U.P.

695. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) scam has been unearthed in Uttar Pradesh (UP) following which a number of officials connected with the NRHM projects in the State have been murdered or committed suicide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated by any central agency; 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) The Financial Management Group (FMG) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, regularly sends teams to States to monitor the financial management of NRHM. Such an FMG team which had visited Uttar Pradesh in December, 2010 observed deficiencies in the following areas:

- (i) Award of contract for procurement of Emergency Medical Transport Services and Mobile Medical Units; Management of hospital cleaning and gardening; Procurement of safe drinking water and R.O. systems etc.
- (ii) Supply of poor quality IEC/BCC material and poor quality of drugs and consumables etc.
- (iii) In respect of civil construction works, there was mere transfer of funds to various State Government agencies without any formal agreement and without any system.
- (iv) Poor monitoring of progress of the civil construction as well as quality of construction and no action on the defects in constructions pointed out by JEs/CMOs.
- (v) Non-operational of emergency transport services even after procurement of 779 ambulances.

On the request of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and also that of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is undertaking a special audit on NRHM implementation in Uttar Pradesh for the entire period of NRHM from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the directions of Hon'ble Allahabad High Court in Writ Petition Nos. 3611 (MB) of 2011 (PIL), 3301 (MB) of 2011 (PIL) and 2647 (MB) of 2011 (PIL), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered five

Preliminary Enquiries related to alleged irregularities in the execution and implementation of National Rural Health Mission funds in the State of Uttar Pradesh since its inception in the year 2005-06 till date. During the course of the said Preliminary Enquiries, the CBI has registered 13 cases so far which are under investigation.

Whistleblower scheme

696. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a proposal under the consideration of Government to reward handsomely who will expose or provide information against those indulging in adulteration of food;
- (b) whether unscrupulous elements are playing with the lives of people by adulterating food items; and
- (c) if so, to what extent the State Governments have been asked to enforce the policy and check food adulterators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has drawn up a draft reward scheme which will be operationalised after finalisation within the scope of Section 95 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

However, recently a whistle blower bill has been presented passed by Lok Sabha. Before taking a final view about the reward scheme, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is waiting for the outcome of this Bill. In case, Parliament passes an Act on Whistle Blower, then there may not be any necessity to go ahead with this scheme.

(c) and (d) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is being enforced by State/ UT Governments throughout the country *w.e.f.* 05.08.2011. Several steps have been taken by the Government to check adulteration which includes lifting of samples by the Food Safety Officers of the States/U.Ts, for testing, conducting raids at suspected places and taking action against such persons. The standards of food articles are being revised and updated from time to time. Appropriate advisories and alerts are also issued to the State/U.Ts authorities from time to time for keeping strict vigil on the quality of food items within their respective jurisdiction for ensuring safe and wholesome food for consumers.

Public Spending on Health

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

- (a) the current expenditure on health as a percentage of the GDP;
- (b) the comparative Government expenditure on health sector as a percentage of the GDP in comparison to other sectors;