(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the National Family Health Survey, only 28.7 per cent of children in the age group of 12-35 months received Vitamin A dose in the last six months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has carried out micronutrient deficiency survey in 8 states during 2003-05. According to the above survey, Vitamin A deficiency is a major nutrition problem in the country, with the overall prevalence of Bitot's spots of 0.8 per cent, which was above the WHO criteria of 0.5 per cent, in all the states except in Kerala and Orissa. Findings from the study also showed that 58 per cent children had low serum Vitamin A levels indicating sub-clinical Vitamin A deficiency. The study also revealed that 25 per cent children had reportedly received two doses of vitamin A supplementation during last one year. Also as per National Family health survey -3 conducted in 2005-06 twenty five per cent children aged 12-35 months received Vitamin A supplementation in last six months.

Following interventions are being implemented in Reproductive and Child Health Programme under Nation Rural Health Mission to prevent and control Vitamin A Deficiency:

- All Children under age of five years are provided Vitamin A supplementation every six months starting at nine months of age. Funds are being provided to all States and UTs for Vitamin A supplementation Programme.
- Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices are being Promoted. Breast milk is an important source of Vitamin A in infant's diet in developing countries.
- Nutrition Education is being imparted in Village Health and Nutrition Days to promote dietary diversification with increased intake of Vitamin A rich food.

Ombudsman for monitoring clinical trials of new drugs

*650 SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry to create a separate post of Ombudsman especially for monitoring clinical trials of new drugs;

(b) The action taken by the Ministry to provide sufficient compensation to the families of poor patients who died during clinical trials of new drugs, as it has been seen that drug companies are paying very meager compensation and the families of such poor patients cannot afford huge expenses involved in court cases; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking views of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no proposal to create a separate post of Ombudsman for monitoring clinical trials of new drugs. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) headed by the Drugs Controller General (India), has the mandate to regulate and monitor such trials under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

(b) and (c) As per the Good Clinical Practices (GCP) Guidelines applicable to clinical trials, compensation in cases of injury or death caused due to clinical trial is required to be borne by the sponsor of the clinical trial. However, a Gazette Notification G.S.R. No. 821(E) dated the 18th November, 2011 has been published containing the draft amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for making detailed provisions for payment of financial compensation in a time bound manner to the trial subjects in cases of trial related injury or death.

CNG price hike

*651 SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of time the price of CNG was raised in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of rise every time it was increased and by how much during the last 3 years and till date;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of CNG has doubled during the last two years:

(d) how Government will justify these increases when, on the one hand, it is promoting this green fuel and, on the other hand, it has doubled its price in this last two years;

(e) whether it is also a fact that High court of Delhi had recently instructed Government not to increase the price of CNG any further; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Ministry in this regard?