

Deaths of children due to diarrhoea and pneumonia

980. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that more than six lakh kids die every year in the country due to diarrhoea and pneumonia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India topped the list of countries with the highest mortality rate to diarrhoea and pneumonia; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check high mortality rate of kids in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Yes. In India, pneumonia and diarrhoea are leading causes of death among children below five years of age. As per report "Countdown to 2015", pneumonia contributes to 11 per cent of deaths and diarrhoea accounts for another 11 per cent of total under-five deaths in India.

- (c) No.
- (d) Under the National Rural Health Mission, the steps taken by the Government for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhoea in children are as follows:—
 - (1) Promotion of early and exclusive breast-feeding offers protection against common childhood illnesses including diarrhoea and pneumonia. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices are being promoted through the national health programme.
 - (2) Vitamin A Supplementation programme covers children upto the age of 5 years and offers protection against diarrhoea and pneumonia by improving the immunity and is used as a preventive measure.
 - (3) Promoting use of Zinc and ORS is one of the priority activities for child survival. Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) packets and zinc tablets are made available free of cost and mothers are taught how to use them.
 - (4) Awareness is being created amongst mothers on sanitation and hygiene and in the communities about the causes and treatment of diarrhoea through health education.

Antibiotics for treatment of pneumonia and dysentery are made available through the public health system.

- (5) The community health workers and facility based health service providers are trained in the management of diarrhoea and pneumonia through the IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) programme across the country.
- (6) Under Universal Immunisation Programme various vaccines are provided and these are DPT, Measles and BCG that protect against diphtheria, pertussis, measles and tuberculosis. Vaccine against Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) infection has been introduced in the national immunization schedule for infants in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the first phase.

Selling of sub-standard medicines by chemists shops near AIIMS

981. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the racket of selling sub-standard and expensive medicines by chemists shops located in close proximity to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No case of sale of substandard and expensive medicines by chemist shops located in close proximity to the All India Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has come to the notice. M/s All India Medicos located inside the AIIMS campus was inspected by Drugs Control Department, Government of NCT of Delhi. The firm was found to have substituted branded medicines. Several samples have been seized for conducting tests. AIIMS has setup a Monitoring Committee to monitor sales of medicine by this shop.

Status of AIIMS in Bihar

†982. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiative taken by Government for construction of AIIMS in the States as proposed earlier;
- (b) the number of AIIMS, which has become operational so far, from the proposed number; and
- (c) whether the proposed AIIMS in Bihar is functioning and, if so, since when and the amount of fund allocated by the Central Government for this?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.