

Leasing out of public health centres in Kerala

537. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State Government of Kerala is leasing out rural public health centres to private hospitals;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind this action;
- (c) whether this is going to be a permanent practice or has the decision been circumstantial;
- (d) the impact this have on the public nature of these health centres and the services provided by them; and
- (e) how Government plans to deal with the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) The Government of Kerala has informed that they have not taken any decision to lease out rural primary health centres to private hospitals.

- (b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Rise in cases of child mortality

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

- (a) whether, as per a survey, child mortality is highest in India;
- (b) if so, whether Government considers it as a serious problem and there is need to give attention on it;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of child mortality cases reported in the World and India, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) As per the UNICEF Progress Report 2012 titled 'Committing to Child Survival - A Promise Renewed', India contributes to 24% of total global child deaths and ranks 49th in descending order of under 5 mortality in the world.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.