

- Dedicated legal assistance has been made available to the District Appropriate Authorities for case filing and follow-up action.
- State Monitoring and Inspection Committee has been constituted and 17 inspections have been carried out in the last six months and punitive action initiated against 17 defaulters.
- Training and capacity building for PNDT apparatus at district level have been undertaken to ensure appropriate handling and follow up action in each of PNDT violation.
- To build up public opinion against female foeticide and violation of PC&PNDT Act, special events such as Beti Shakti Abhiyan, celebration of Girl Child Day, involvement of school and college students through poster writing competition, organization/sensitization workshop for Priest, Pujaris, Maulavis, Imams and Granthis, display of publicity material through posters, audio-visual spots through media channels *etc.*, have been organized.
- Participation of civil society and NGOs dedicated to the cause of girl child has been included at district and State level structure.
- Monitoring of birth ratio in major private and government sector hospitals for gender bias is being undertaken by the Districts for surveillance on suspected hospitals and maternity homes.
- Field workers like ASHAs, ANMs and Anganwadi have been sensitized on the provisions of the PC&PNDT Act and their role in preventing family from resorting to sex determination.

NHRC notice on illegal drug trials

1629. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Rights, Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the Ministry alleging that three Government hospitals in Delhi conducted illegal drug trials on nearly 3500 children during the past three years; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had sent a notice dated 7.2.2013 to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare seeking requisite information/report on the allegations contained in the representation dated 6.2.2013 of Shri R.H. Bansal, General Secretary, Antarrashtriya Manav Adhikar Nigrani Parishad regarding illegal clinical trials on 3479 children during the last 5 years in Delhi's 3 Government hospitals, namely, Safdarjung Hospital, Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Hospital and Kalawati Saran Hospital. The matter was immediately got examined by the Drugs Controller General (India) [DCG(I)] through three expert committees, each having an expert in the relevant area, an officer from CDSCO and one officer from State Drug Control Department, Delhi. On the basis of the report of these committees, the DCG(I), in his report to the Ministry, concluded that the studies at these hospitals were conducted on the children after taking the consent of their Guardians/Parents. However, in case of Safdarjung Hospital, a few flaws were noted in getting their informed consent. The Ministry would ensure that all the required measure are taken by the DCG(I) so that only those clinical trials are allowed in the future which are strictly as per the prescribed norms. The reply to the notice of the NHRC has been sent on 11.3.2013.

Cure for blindness

1630. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Chennaibased scientist has succeeded in curing blindness which has been considered irreversible;
- (b) if so, the details of the achievements made; and
- (c) the details of other diseases which are preventable and non-preventable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The National Programme for Control of Blindness, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has not received any report regarding a Chennai based Scientist succeeding in curing blindness, which has been considered irreversible.