

(CSW), Men having Sex with Men (MSM), Injecting Drug Users (IDU) and also truck drivers and migrants are specifically addressed through behavior change communication programmes implemented as part of Targeted Intervention projects.

Increasing number of hypertension cases

*402. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a WHO report, hypertension is a major contributor to avoidable deaths in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a very high percentage of Indians are in prehypertension stage;

(c) whether hypertension is a leading cause of hospitalization and out patient visits; and

(d) if so, whether Government is trying to accord high priority to meet this challenge?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Hypertension is a major risk factor for a number of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which account for a large proportion of all deaths in India.

(b) As per studies conducted in 2004, the prevalence of pre-hypertension is estimated in the range of 46% to 62% in urban areas and 41% to 54% in rural areas, with an overall prevalence rate of 43% to 58%.

(c) Hypertension can lead to diseases and complications which may necessitate visits to the hospitals including hospitalization.

(d) Yes, Sir. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, in the year 2010, the Government has launched the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS).

PNG connections in Tamil Nadu

*403. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: