

(a) whether it is a fact that epidemics have spread in Uttarakhand in the aftermath of the recent natural disaster there;

(b) if so, whether Central Government has provided assistance to the State after assessing it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the spread of epidemics?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Senior Officers of the Central Government Visited the affected areas. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare strengthened surveillance for providing early warning signs of an epidemic. Central Public Health teams were deployed in the districts of Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Haridwar, continuously for 2 months to investigate and manage epidemics. In addition an expert was deputed by National Vector Borne Disease Control programme to assess the situation and take preventive measures for Malaria and Dengue in the foothill districts. The State also deployed their Rapid Response Teams to all affected Districts. The Central teams conducted regular field visits to flood affected areas to assess situation and to recommend public health measures to prevent outbreak. The Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife under NRHM conducted village surveys and reported on epidemic prone diseases on daily basis. They also helped in chlorinating drinking water at end user level. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supplied Bleaching Powder and chlorine tablets to prevent water borne diseases. Ministry of Health also provided guidelines for prevention of epidemic prone diseases.

Recalling of Indian doctors from the USA

1952. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three thousand doctors who had gone to the United States of America (USA) during the last three years for higher medical educations have not returned;

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any policy to recall these doctors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Statement of Need (SON) Certificates and Exceptional Need Certificates (ENC) are issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to Indian doctors to enable them to pursue higher medical studies in United States of America (USA). From 2010 till date SON Certificate and ENC totaling to 2540 have been issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. While applying for issuance of these certificates, the applicant files a Written Assurance with the Government that He/She will return to India upon completion of training in the USA and intend to enter the practice of Medicine in India in the specialties for which training is being sought. However, it has been observed that in some cases, this commitment is not being honoured.

In view of the above, in March, 2013, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued revised guidelines for issue of SON Certificate, ENC and No Obligation to Return to India (NORI) Certificate. As per the revised guidelines in addition to a written undertaking that on completion of their training in the USA they will return to India, Indian doctors applying for Statement of Need Certificate or Exceptional Need Certificate are required to execute a Bond of Rupees Five lakh with two sureties. Further, the said guidelines stipulate that NORI Certificate will not be issued in any circumstance.

Further, In order to stop brain drain of doctors working under Government Sector, the following steps have been taken by the Central Government.

- (i) Pay and allowances of doctors have been enhanced considerably after implementation of the 6th Central Pay Commission (CPC).
- (ii) The age of superannuation of faculty of Medical Institutions has been enhanced to 65 years.
- (iii) Assured promotion scheme for faculty of Central Government Institutions has been revised to make it more beneficial.
- (iv) Various allowances available to faculty like Non-Practicing Allowance, Conveyance allowance, Learning Resource Allowance, etc. have been enhanced considerably.