(c) and (d) Access to affordable and quality healthcare in rural areas is poor as compared to urban areas. Public Health is a State subject. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), financial support is being provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare system including for creating/strengthening of rural health infrastructure based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans.

Opening of new CGHS hospitals

†2545. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to open new CGHS hospitals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether opening of a new CGHS hospital at Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been approved; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not opening the hospital there so far, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) CGHS is basically a dispensary oriented Scheme. It has a large network of dispensaries in 25 cities in the country. In addition, it has four small hospitals in operation at Delhi. There is no proposal to open any new hospital under CGHS.

- (c) No.
- (d) In view of (c), question does not arise.

Diseases due to air pollution

†2546. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether respiratory and other diseases are widely prevalent in the entire country due to air pollution;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.