

Shortage of TB Medicines

3650. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage in the supply of medicines for treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) in some parts of the country, and, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the steps undertaken by Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No, Sir. As on date, sufficient quantity of Anti TB drugs under Revised National TB Control Programme is available in the country.

- (b) Does not arise.

Safe work environment for female health workers

3651. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the members of the nurses' associations and women's organisations have demanded justice and a safe work environment for female health workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the female health workers have demanded for a safe working environment for them in all establishments; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) Yes. Recently, a representation signed by representatives of various organisations has been received in the Ministry seeking justice in sexual harassment cases involving women healthcare workers, safe working environment for women and institution of Vishakha Committees in all healthcare institutions all over the country. The representation has been forwarded to all States/UTs for appropriate action.

- (d) Health being a state subject, the matter regarding working conditions of Nursing staff comes under the purview of the State Government in which the hospitals are located.

Expansion of public healthcare system

3652. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to expand the public healthcare system to address the healthcare needs of vast majority of citizens;