

Shortage of Drugs in the country

2193. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of drugs in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals monitors the availability of drugs. While most drugs are available in sufficient quantity, NPPA has informed that shortage of certain essential / scheduled medicines namely albumin injection, anti-snake venom, rabies vaccine, rabies immunoglobulin and anti-malarial combination of sulfadoxine + pyrimethamine tablet has been reported in the recent past. Besides, short supply of Benzathine Pencillin, Vericella Vaccine and Oseltamivir has also been reported in different parts of the country. The drugs are in short supply for various reasons including logistic issues. The shortage of albumin injection has been on account of the short supply of bulk Plasma to the manufacturers. Further, while sufficient capacity to manufacture anti-snake venom is available, there could be shortage when there is a sudden increase in the demand as orders for anti-snake venom have to be placed at least six months in advance keeping in view the time required to manufacture it. Also in view of its limited shelf life, it is not possible to manufacture large quantities without proper orders.

Free Medicines for treatment of TB

2194. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether multi-drug resistant TB cases caused mainly by irregular medication are increasing day by day despite Government currently spending about ₹ 250 crore on providing free medicines to TB patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide medicines for treatment of tuberculosis (TB) free at all chemist shops and corporate hospitals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the procedure to be followed for distribution of medicines to the TB patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) According to latest WHO Global TB Report, the estimated proportion of Multi-Drug Resistant TB Cases in India is not increasing. It is less than 3 percent among new TB cases and between 12-17 percent among re-treatment cases. However, the detection of Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) cases has been increasing due to availability of more diagnostic facilities for MDR-TB and coverage of the entire country by expansion of Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a)

(c) In Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients who are covered under the programme through DOT Centres established through-out the country. There is no proposal to provide medicines for treatment of TB free at all Chemist Shops and Corporate Hospitals.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Rural Healthcare Infrastructure

2195. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals functioning in the country and how many of them are in rural areas;

(b) the total number of doctors registered in India and how many of them are working in public sector; and

(c) the ratio of hospital beds to population in rural areas as compared to that for urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) As per provisional information available in National Health Profile 2013 compiled by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, there are 19,817 Government hospitals (including CHCs) available in rural and urban areas in India, the State-wise details of which are given in Statement (*See below*).

As per provisional information available in National Health Profile 2013, 1,06,813 Government allopathic doctors and 5,278 dental surgeons are available in the country. In addition, 6,86,319 registered AYUSH doctors are available in the country as on 1.1.2013.