

unit per academic year. Setting up of National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and 2nd campus of Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has been approved.

The list of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which are included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013 also contain drugs used for the treatment of Cancer. 489 NLEM (drug formulations) medicines for which ceiling prices have been notified under DPCO, 2013, includes 47 anti-Cancer medicines. No person is authorized to sell any such formulation to any consumer at a price exceeding the ceiling price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients is available under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN). Besides this, the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) within the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi has been set up in 2009 wherein 27 erstwhile Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) are provided with revolving funds to provide immediate financial assistance upto ₹ 2.00 lakh to BPL Cancer patients.

Shortage of anti-rabies serum injection in Delhi

†148. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anti-rabies serum injection was out of stock in various Government hospitals in Delhi, last month due to which the needy people had to face a lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, the reasons for not completing the procurement process before the outof-stock situation of the injection; and

(c) whether any negligence has been noticed in this matter, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) In so far as the Central Government hospital located in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML hospital and Lady Hardinge and Medical College and its associated hospitals are concerned, anti-rabies serum injection was not available in Safdarjung Hospital for a short period due to non-supply of item by approved vendor. However, Safdarjung Hospital has made local purchase and also procured from CRI Kasauli.

There has been no shortage of anti-rabies serum injection in Dr. RML hospital during last month. As regards Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and associated

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Hospitals, there is no anti-rabies clinic running in the hospital. Since very few cases are reported at LHMC and associated hospitals, anti-rabies serum is made available as and when required.

(c) No negligence has been noticed in the procurement of anti-rabies serum injection in three Central Government hospitals in respect of the hospitals *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated hospitals.

Stringent Tobacco Control Measures

149. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tobacco use accounts for 40 per cent of all cancers in India;
- (b) whether it is also associated with high morbidity and mortality caused due to respiratory problems, heart diseases and TB among others;
- (c) if so, whether Government has drawn any strategy to put into operation stringent tobacco control measures;
- (d) whether the existing anti-tobacco law has many loopholes; and
- (e) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to plug these loopholes and make the law more effective with stringent penalties?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) As per the report of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 50% of cancers in Males and 25% of cancers in Females in India are related to tobacco use.

(b) As per World Health Organization (WHO) the use of tobacco is a major risk factor for 4 major Non Communicable Diseases namely Cardio Vascular Disease, Cancers, Diabetes and Chronic Respiratory Disease. WHO studies also show that smoking substantially increases the risk of tuberculosis (TB) and deaths from TB, as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey – India Report (2010) 40% of the TB burden in India may be attributed to smoking.

(c) The Government has taken a series of tobacco control measures, including the following:

- (i) Enactment of the “Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COTPA) 2003”.