

NGO and that available in the existing literature, the Expert Committee, suggested that sufficient evidence to establish a definite correlation of causality of plastic container for pharmaceutical products and adverse health effects is not established and that this was an important health concern and needed detailed investigation. The Expert Committee had also stated that scientific evidence needs to be generated over a period of time.

(b) and (c) A few media reports have mentioned that some medical professionals had criticised the pharma industry for justifying the use of PET bottles.

(d) and (e) A draft notification prohibiting the use of plastic / PET containers in liquid oral formulations for primary packaging of paediatric formulations as well as formulations meant for geriatrics, women in reproductive age group and pregnant women was published in the Gazette of India dated 29th September, 2014 inviting objections and suggestions from the public including all the stakeholders. In response, around 292 representations opposing the ban have been received. In order to assess the health and environmental impact of use of PET bottles for packaging drugs, it has been decided to constitute a High Level Committee.

#### **Deaths from swine flu**

545. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM :

SHRI AHMED PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died due to the deadly disease swine flu caused by the H1N1 virus throughout the country, Statewise, till date since January this year;

(b) whether Government has taken any concrete step to curb the disease; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) The number of persons died due to Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) in the country, State-wise since January this year is given in the Statement (*See* below). All the deaths may not have occurred only due to Influenza A H1N1 infection but may also be due to co-morbid conditions (Lung disease, liver disease, kidney disease, blood disorders, Diabetes etc.) and because of compromised immunity of the patients.

(b) and (c) Yes. The Central Government monitored the Influenza A H1N1 situation and remained in regular touch with the affected State Governments. For combating outbreak of Influenza A H1N1, the States have been provided guidelines on screening,

risk categorization of patients, clinical case management and ventilator management. To guide and assist the State Governments, teams from Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry were sent as per need. The Central Government also assisted the State Governments by providing logistic support for drug oseltamivir, H1N1 Vaccine, masks and Personal Protective Equipments.

The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme regularly collects data on outbreaks of communicable diseases including Influenza A H1N1 from different parts of the country. This data is monitored and analyzed to facilitate quick response to contain outbreaks. The Central Government has also established a network of 21 laboratories equipped to test the virus. The affected States have further supplemented these efforts by authorizing private diagnostic laboratories for conducting tests.

Emergency stock of Oseltamivir drug, N-95 masks and Personal Protective Equipment is also being maintained. A Committee under the Director General of Health Services also regularly monitors the situation.

Regular advertisements for guidance of public on Influenza A H1N1 were issued by MOHFW in national and local newspapers. These also included vernacular languages. A campaign was also launched from 14-28th February, 2015 on Portals registered with Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity. Radio Jingles were aired on All India Radio and private FM channels. TV spots were broadcast on Doordarshan and private TV channels from 21 February to 7th March 2015. The affected States have also placed advertisements and undertaken media campaign in the local newspapers and aired Radio and Television spots.

#### *Statement*

#### *Number of deaths due to Influenza A H1N1*

*(1st January 2015-21st April, 2015)*

Sl.No. States/UTs	Cumulative deaths since 1st Jan, 2015
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	23
3. Arunachal Pradesh	0
4. Assam	3
5. Bihar	6
6. Chandigarh	7
7. Chhattisgarh	27
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Cumulative deaths since 1st Jan, 2015
9.	Daman and Diu	1
10.	Delhi	12
11.	Goa	4
12.	Gujarat	439
13.	Haryana	55
14.	Himachal Pradesh	24
15.	Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu)	5
	(Kashmir)	15
16.	Jharkhand	4
17.	Karnataka	85
18.	Kerala	21
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	318
21.	Maharashtra	485
22.	Manipur	2
23.	Meghalaya	0
24.	Mizoram	0
25.	Nagaland	0
26.	Odisha	9
27.	Puducherry	4
28.	Punjab	56
29.	Rajasthan	434
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	17
32.	Telangana	79
33.	Tripura	0
34.	Uttarakhand	13
35.	Uttar Pradesh	45
36.	West Bengal	26
	CUMULATIVE TOTAL	2223