

have been showing declining trend as per SRS Bulletin of Registrar General of India as indicated below:—

Year	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
2000	25.8	68
2001	25.4	66
2002	25.0	64

US refusal for Indian AIDS Drugs

129. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact the US Food and Drug Administration refused to give its approval for use of WHO-approved AIDS drug combinations manufactured by Indian drug manufacturers in US-funded programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken through diplomatic and political channels, to convince USA to use these drugs in US sponsored or funded programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no information available with the Government that AIDS drug combinations of Indian manufacturers, approved by WHO, under its pre-qualification scheme, are being refused by US, FDA for their acceptance under US funded Programmes for supply for AIDS drugs. It is, however, understood that for supply of AIDS drugs to developing countries, against the funds provided under US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) tentative approval of US, FDA about safety and efficacy standards of these drugs would be required.

Council to regulate physiotherapy

†130. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 776 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2003 and state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government have constituted a Council to regulate physiotherapy;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that such persons who have obtained bachelor's degree or master's degree after successfully completing four and half-years course in physiotherapy have been allowed to prefix 'Doctor' to their name?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government is in the process of introducing a comprehensive Bill to regulate certain para-medical professions including physiotherapy. A Council for physiotherapists will be constitute once the relevant legislation comes into force.

(c) No, Sir.

Typhoid kit

131. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO has developed a kit for Typhoid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mass production of this kit has been started; and

(d) if so, by when the kit is going to be distributed to various hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) DRDO has reported that the Organisation has developed a kit for Typhoid. This kit is based on antigen detection and diagnosis is achieved within 1-3 minutes. The kit is suitable for use in field. Each kit carries reagents to perform 30 tests. No special training is required to use the kit. The reagent is highly sensitive, specific and is stable at 4°C for more than 9 months. DRDO has transferred the technology to M/s Xcyton Diagnostics Limited, Bangalore and the kit is proposed to be launched by mid August, 2004.