

for interventions up to district level under the National Health Mission. NPCDCS has focus on awareness generation for behaviour and life-style changes, screening and early diagnosis of persons with high level of risk factors and their referral to higher facilities for appropriate management.

#### **Polio-free status for the country**

2705. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is no more a polio-endemic country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof compared to the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Yes, it is a fact that India is no more a polio endemic country.

(b) India was removed from the list of countries with active endemic wild poliovirus transmission by WHO on 24th February, 2012 as no wild poliovirus was detected from any source for more than 12 consecutive months after 13th January, 2011 in Howrah district of West Bengal.

Indian along with ten other countries of South East Asia Region of World Health Organisation (WHO) was subsequently certified "that the transmission of indigenous wild poliovirus has been interrupted in all countries of the region. The Commission declares today, 27th March, 2014 that South East Asia Region is poliomyelitis free".

No wild poliovirus case has been detected from any State/UTs for more than 4 years after the last case of wild polio virus detected on 13th January, 2011 (as on 16th December, 2015.)

#### **Shortage of paramedical staff**

2706. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe shortage of paramedical staff in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of shortage of paramedical staff in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to overcome the shortage of paramedical staff?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) No data in relation to number of Paramedics is maintained Centrally.

(c) To meet the required number of Paramedical Staffs in the country, the following two Schemes are being run by the Ministry-

(1) Setting up and strengthening of State institutions of allied health sciences in States.

(2) Strengthening/ upgradation of pharmacy institutions and continuing education programme for faculty and practicing pharmacists.

Also as per information provided by MSDE, during the last year approximately 19,000 learners have been certified as allied health professionals and another 25,000 are to be inducted for training in this financial year.

#### **Equitable healthcare services**

2707. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified certain poorest performing districts to provide equitable healthcare services;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to put in more resources and focused programme in the poorest performing districts in order to improve healthcare services and ensure equitable health services across regions that suffer from intra-State disparities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Yes. To ensure equitable health care and to bring about sharper improvements in health outcomes in the low performing districts Department of Health and Family Welfare have identified 184 districts across country ranked in bottom 25% of the districts within each State as High Priority Districts (HPDs) on the basis of composite index of health indicators available in Annual Health Survey (AHS) 2010-11 and District Level Health Survey - III (DLHS - III) except for Nagaland where indicators from Health Management Information System (HMIS) were used for implementation of focused health care interventions under National Health Mission (NHM). A State-wise list of HPDs including that in the State of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal is given in Statement (*See below*).