

(b) whether Government has any proposal for inclusion of all tea gardens in Assam under National Health Mission (NHM) as tea garden labourers of Assam have a long pending demand for better healthcare and medical facilities which they are deprived for many years with no doctors and medicines within tea garden hospitals;

(c) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide hospital/health centre per tea garden in the State with minimum health and medical care facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) to (c) Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility of providing health care to its citizens including Tea Garden labourers is that of the State Governments. Under National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to the State Governments to strengthen their health care system, based on the Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) received from the States/UTs.

As per information received from the State Government of Assam based on a recently conducted preliminary survey on the Tea Gardens, around 50% of the Tea Gardens have functional labour room, emergency room, IPD facility besides the medical officer and ANMs. Some of them also have New Born Care Corner (NBCC). Ambulance service is also available in Tea Garden areas.

(d) Under NHM, support of ₹ 11.25 crore was provided for 150 Tea Garden areas in Assam in year 2015-16 for consumables, drugs, laboratory supplies, ambulance services for referral to the patients free of cost etc.

All the benefits of important programmes like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) etc. are also being provided in the Tea Garden hospitals. The inhabitants of Tea Garden can also access the Government health facilities and receive healthcare.

NAT facility for Amritsar Blood Bank

2591. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government proposes a NAT testing facility at Amritsar Blood Bank as there are a large number of people suffering from Thalassemia and Blood Cancer which require continuous treatment and blood transfusion and during blood transfusion, there are chances of Transfusion Transmitted Diseases (TTDs) to the recipient and Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT), a molecular technique for screening blood donations to reduce the risk of TTDs in the recipients, thus providing an additional layer of blood safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): Public Health is a State subject. As per information provided by the State Government, there is no proposal for establishing NAT facility in any of the Government Blood Banks in Amritsar.

Report on efficacy of Putra Jeevak Vati

2592. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a "Putra Jeevak Vati" is being produced and marketed by Patanjali;

(b) if so, whether it has been tested for its efficacy or for its content by any laboratory; and

(c) whether the State Government of Uttarakhand has submitted a report to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Ministry of AYUSH has requested the Government of Uttarakhand to enquire into the matter and send a report.

(c) No.

WHO's report on healthcare workforce

2593. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a WHO report that more than half of the practicing healthcare work force in the country do not have any medical qualification; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) As per the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, only the practitioners enrolled on a State medical register can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention is liable to be punished with imprisonment and/or fine. Since Health is a State subject, action in such cases is to be taken by the respective State Governments. It may be noted that besides 9.59 lakh registered allopathic doctors in the country, there are 6.77 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors.