

(c) whether Government will consider to establish a regional centre of AIIMS in Sikkim in view of its topography and distance from Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Yes, Government intends to establish AIIMS in North Guwahati in Assam.

(b) The site at Village Jalah, Mouza Sila Sunduri Ghopa, North Guwahati Revenue Circle has been approved for the establishment of AIIMS in Assam. The timeline for making it fully operationalised will be furnished at the time of its administrative approval.

(c) There is no proposal for establishment of regional centre of AIIMS in Sikkim.

HIV infection through blood transfusions

1002. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numbers of individual have reported being infected with HIV during blood transfusions;

(b) if so, State-wise report thereon;

(c) the action which have been taken against the medical centres therefor; and

(d) action taken by Government for the patients who have been infected with HIV during transfusion therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) No individuals have reported being infected with HIV during blood transfusions to National AIDS Control Organization.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All patients suspected to have been infected with HIV including previous history of transfusion are referred to Integrated Counseling and Testing Center for confirmation of infection and linked to Anti Retroviral Therapy Centre if found HIV positive for their treatment.

Shortage of essential drugs

1003. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to declare drugs as essential or life saving along with the number of such enlisted drugs in the country;

(b) whether shortage of certain essential or life saving drugs including Human Serum Albumin (HSA) have been reported in Delhi and certain parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) The Government of India brings out its National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) from time to time keeping in view the disease pattern of the country, latest scientific evidence on the efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of medicines and the standard treatment guidelines; with the overarching objective being satisfying the priority healthcare needs of majority of the population. 376 medicines have been listed in the NLEM 2015, which was notified on 23.12.2015.

(b) and (c) Some shortage of Human Albumin Serum has been reported in the recent past from some States/UTs including Delhi. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is mandated to monitor the availability of drugs in the country, identify shortages, if any, and take remedial measures, had discussed this issue in a meeting held on 29.3.2016 wherein it was pointed out that major pharmaceutical companies producing Human Albumin had raised the issue regarding non-availability of plasma at the prescribed rates resulting in decreased production of Human Albumin. It may be mentioned that Human Albumin is not included in the NLEM 2015 and, therefore, it is not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013, which is likely to result in its increased supply.

Promotion of small family norm

1004. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Centre is considering to promote small family norm with renewed vigour in view of population growth rate, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): No. The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to decide the size of their family and adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice, without any consumption.

Enhancing of retirement age of doctors

1005. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Cabinet has recently enhanced the retirement age of doctors to 65 years;