Neo-natal screening to detect genetic defects

1890. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Delhi based lab has claimed that their neo-natal screening will detect genetic defects early and prevent irreversible damage;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider making the same available in major Government hospitals in the country; and

(c) the complete details of such screening?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Lai's Path Labs, New Delhi has introduced for the first time in India "Tandem Mass Spectrometry" for diagnosing genetic and metabolic disorders and for newborn screening.

(b) This equipment is currently not available at any Government hospital in the country. However, a Multi-Centric Task Force on Inborn Metabolic Errors and Newborn Screening has been planned to be initiated by Indian Council of Medical Research. A Public-Private Partnership involving the said Lab in Delhi for earring out the screening for genetic disorders at a very subsidised cost under collaborative programme is also being thought upon.

(c) The Newborn screening can enable early detection of inborn errors metabolism, which if left undiagnosed and untreated could lead to mental retardation, crippling disability, development delay and even death. This equipment can detect more than 30 disorder from a single drop of blood and more than 500 samples can be tested per day. The screening can help to prevent the recurrence of similar births and many of the metabolic disorders can be treated with nutritional interventions by diets, many of which are currently unavailable in the country.

Over burdened CGHS dispensaries

1891. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in Delhi are overburdened, particularly dispensary No. 53 situated at Rajouri Garden;