

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) to (d) Due to protracted litigation by some senior faculty members of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, the Government has, so far, not been able to appoint Director, RIMS, Imphal on regular basis, since the post fell vacant in August, 2014.

However, for smooth functioning of the academic activities and patient care services in the Institute, the Government has been making appointment to the post of Director, RIMS, Imphal by assigning additional charge to senior most faculty of RIMS, Imphal.

In April 2017, a Manipur cadre officer of the Indian Administrative Service, was appointed as Director, RIMS, on officiating basis.

All these appointments were made in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Bye-laws of RIMS, Imphal.

Clinical trials of antibiotics on children

†2510. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any record regarding trial of antibiotics on children under one year of age, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to excessive use of antibiotics on infants, there is no effect of general antibiotics like Ampicillin on them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Central Licensing Authority *i.e.* Drugs Controller General (India) has given approval for conduct of various clinical trials of antibiotics on children under one year of age. During the last three years, such clinical trials approved were mainly related to trials in Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) and Tuberculosis Meningitis in children. The details of the clinical trials are registered in Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI), which is publically available (www.ctri.nic.in).

(b) Antibiotic use is a major driver of resistance. Neonates are more prone to infections and vulnerable to ineffective treatment. Sepsis remains a leading cause of mortality and morbidity, especially during the first five days of life and in low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Antibiotics are included in Schedule H and H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, and, therefore, cannot be sold in retail except on and in accordance with the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched a programme on Antimicrobial Stewardship, Prevention of Infection and Control (ASPIC) in 2012. Functional infection control programmes not only cut down the rates of nosocomial infections, but also reduce the volume of antibiotic consumption and are a critical part of any comprehensive strategy to contain antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Further, a red line campaign has been launched to regulate over the counter sale of Schedule H antibiotics. The campaign is aimed at discouraging unnecessary prescription and over-the-counter sale of antibiotics causing drug resistance for several critical diseases including TB, malaria, urinary tract infection and even HIV.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also launched a programme named 'National Programme on Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance' to address the problem of growing AMR.

Merging of departments in Safdarjung Hospital

2511. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the common treatments being done in Central Institute of Orthopaedics and Sports Injury Centre of Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) whether common treatments can be housed and merged in one department;

(c) whether both the departments can be housed in one building in the interest of patients; and

(d) whether Directors of both the departments may be housed in one building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) The Government approved establishment of Sports Injury Centre (SIC) at Safdarjung Hospital to function as a self-sufficient Department providing tertiary and specialized care for management of sports injuries. This Centre performs high end Arthroscopic surgeries involving all joints leading to early rehabilitation. Further, it deals selectively with high end Arthroscopic procedure involving multi ligamentous knee injury, complex shoulder injuries including instability and rotator cuff tears, nerve entrapment,