

Upgradation of PHCs

2534. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to upgrade and/or develop the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of the country into General Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of State-wise primary health centres and sub-divisional hospitals in the country; and

(c) the details of the proposal and the time-frame of Government to provide free medical support systems to all and the technical developments with financial support therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Public Health and Hospitals is a State subject. The primary responsibility to provide health care services and upgrade and/ or develop the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) lies with the State Governments. However, under NHM financial and technical support is provided to States/ UTs to strengthen their health care system including upgradation/ improvement of the Public Health Facilities. There is no proposal under this Ministry to upgrade and/or develop the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) into General Hospitals.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Law for regulating diagnostic labs

2535. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no law to regulate diagnostic labs for their diagnostic services, pricing and quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefore; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) Health is a State subject and regulation of diagnostic laboratories falls within the remit of State Governments. The Government of India has, however, enacted the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 and notified Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012 for registration and regulation of Clinical Establishments, including Diagnostic Laboratories. The Act is currently applicable in ten States and all Union

Territories except Delhi. In the States/UTs where the said Act is in force, the clinical establishments are required to meet the norms such as minimum standards of facilities and services, minimum requirement of personnel, maintenance of records and reports and displaying of rates at a conspicuous place.

The clinical establishments are also required to follow Standard Treatment Guidelines issued by the Central/State Governments and charge rates for each type of procedure and service within the range of rates determined from time to time. The National Council for Clinical Establishments has approved a standard list of medical procedures and a standard template for costing medical procedures and shared the same with the States and Union Territories. Further action lies within the purview of the State/UT Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgrading food testing laboratories

2536. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food testing laboratories set up in the country including Maharashtra along with the number of such laboratories out of these which fulfils international standards, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that several food testing laboratories are still not fully equipped to meet the requirement of food testing, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to upgrade the said laboratories, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) At present, there are 219 Food Testing Laboratories [72 labs functioning under the State/Union Territories; 131 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited private laboratories and 16 Referral Laboratories notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)] in the country under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. State/Union Territory-wise details of these laboratories with NABL accreditation, are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Many of state food testing laboratories lack equipment/infrastructure and the technical manpower required for conducting the tests (details are given in the Statement).