

- Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC) facility of NCDC was activated to monitor the AES situation in Muzaffarpur and co-ordinate tasks at the field level.
- MoHFW had further deputed 5 teams of Doctors along with technicians from Central Government Hospitals to SKMCH to support clinical management.
- Central team consisting experts from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was also deployed at SKMCH. The team is also scrutinising and reviewing the case records of discharge and deceased patients using a standardised tool to know the reasons for mortality.
- Orientation training of all Paediatricians of SKMCH on clinical case management and treatment protocol of AES was conducted on regular basis by the Central Team of paediatricians.

(c) and (d) Consumption of Litchi is safe in healthy individuals. A research study was conducted by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with partner institutions in the year 2013-14 wherein it has been found that when litchi is consumed by malnourished children, few of these children may develop hypoglycaemia. However, this study was based on data of limited factors in which some research areas were not fully defined.

Accordingly, Government has constituted inter-disciplinary, high quality research team under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) involving various stakeholders, such as, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Women and Child Department, Indian Academy of Paediatrics, Indian Meteorological Department, National Institute of Nutrition, NCDC.

Deaths of children from AES

1808. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of children in various parts of the country have died in the past few months due to life taking fever such as AES;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked for a detailed report from the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check such a rising trend of deaths due to this menace in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (d) In the year 2019, a total of 162 deaths of children were reported from Bihar till 02.07.2019 due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

As per information received from National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), 63 deaths have been reported due to AES, as on 30.06.2019, from other 7 States of the country *i.e.* Assam (25), Jharkhand (2), Maharashtra (1), Manipur (1), Odisha (1), Uttar Pradesh (17) and West Bengal (16)

The States are regularly reporting the AES cases and deaths to the Central Government.

(e) As per Constitutional provisions, 'Health' is a state subject. However, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have taken measures to support State in containment of AES cases as follows:—

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister (HFM) had reviewed the situation with Health Minister of Bihar and also with officials from Ministry.
- MoHFW had deputed a Central team of experts consisting of Public Health Specialist from various Central Government Institutes to assist the State Government in containment and management measures.
- HFM visited Bihar along with Minister of State (HFW) and team of officers. HFM reviewed the situation and also visited Shri Krishna Medical College and Hospital, (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur.
- MoHFW deployed another high level multi-disciplinary team to Muzaffarpur drawing senior Paediatricians from various central government Institutes to advise state in their efforts to manage the cases. Epidemiologists from National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), senior paediatricians, Laboratory technicians from central level are present in Muzaffarpur since 12th June, 2019.
- Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC) facility of NCDC was activated to monitor the AES situation in Muzaffarpur and co-ordinate tasks at the field level.
- MoHFW had further deputed 5 teams of Doctors along with technicians

from Central Government Hospitals to SKMCH to support clinical management.

- Central team consisting experts from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was also deployed at SKMCH. The team is also scrutinising and reviewing the case records of discharge and deceased patients using a standardised tool to know the reasons for mortality.
- Orientation training of all Paediatricians of SKMCH on clinical case management and treatment protocol of AES was conducted on regular basis by the Central Team of paediatricians.

Further, NVBDCP is working for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) which is one of the important cause of AES. Under NVBDCP, Sentinel sites report number of AES cases and also confirm Japanese Encephalitis (JE) by testing of samples (Serum/CSF) by IgM Mc ELISA kits provided by Government of India. Numbers of Sentinel sites have gradually been increased from 51 in 2005 to 142 at present. Apex Laboratories increased from 12 to 15 for testing of non JE pathogens in AES cases and quality control. 355 JE Kits have been supplied in 2019 as on 30.06.2019.

Anti-Tobacco Campaigns

1809. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any difference in the usage or sale of tobacco products since the new packaging regulations (85 per cent warning size) came in place;

(b) if not, the manner in which Government plans to tackle the increasing rate of preventable death and cancer caused by consumption of tobacco products; and

(c) the reasons for not putting colours (like green), and health warnings (like “smoking kills”) printed on individual cigarettes to deter young smokers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Large, evidence based, pictorial health warnings on all tobacco packs are impactful interventions, as they are noticed by tobacco users and non-users. 83.0 percent of current cigarette smokers, 78.4 percent of current bidi smokers and 71.6 percent of smokeless tobacco users noticed health warnings on the cigarette, bidi and smokeless tobacco packages respectively. 61.9 percent of cigarette smokers, 53.8 percent of bidi smokers and 46.2 percent of smokeless tobacco users noticed health warnings on packages and