

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

thought of quitting tobacco use because of the warning label.

With the several policy interventions including large pictorial health warning, the prevalence of tobacco use among aged 15 years and above has been reduced by 6 percentage points from 2009-10 to 2016-17 as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17.

Sale data of all tobacco products is not maintained centrally.

(c) Section 7 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) stipulates that no person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him bears thereon, or on its label, the specified warning.

Further, to ensure that the warning is legible, prominent and conspicuous, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 provides that the size of the specified health warning on each panel of the tobacco package shall not be less than 3.5 cm (width) X 4 cm (height).

Doctor to population ratio

†1810. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MBBS doctors per thousand of the population in India;
- (b) whether this ratio is not lower than the United Nations' declared criteria;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the number and availability of doctors in India;
- (d) the number of proposed private medical colleges that have not yet been approved to go operational; and
- (e) whether Government is willing to bring flexibility in its policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Medical Council of India (MCI), there are a total 11,59,309 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on 31st March, 2019. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 9.27 lakh

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.