

Data transfer of digital health records

2645. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any legislation on healthcare to ensure data transfer of digital health records of patients between hospitals, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the mechanisms introduced to safeguard the data security and privacy of patients and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) MoHFW had drafted a “Digital Information Security in Healthcare, act (DISHA act)” with objective to ensure data privacy, confidentiality, reliability and security of digital health data. This Ministry forwarded the draft legislation to Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for seeking their inputs and guidance.

In response, it was informed that MeitY is in process of enacting ‘Data Protection Framework on Digital Information Privacy, Security and Confidentiality’ Act, which would be applicable in all domains including health. This act would provide the framework for Ministry to utilize the patient data in programmes in a secured manner.

Therefore, the Ministry submitted the draft DISHA Act to MeitY to be subsumed in the upcoming ‘Data Protection Framework on Digital Information Privacy, Security and Confidentiality’ Act to avoid the duplicacy of effort.

Coverage of AES under Ayushman Bharat

2646. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was assistance provided to the children who survived and/ or are undergoing treatment of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar, under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not reasons therefor;

(c) whether the disease can be covered under the above mentioned scheme; and

(d) the measures Government is taking to ensure capacity building of hospitals in districts across the country in order to ensure they are not ill-equipped to handle crises such as AES?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) The State Health Agency, in the State of Bihar, implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) has informed that 57 encephalitis patients have been treated under the scheme. State has conducted several IEC campaigns in Muzaffarpur to raise awareness about encephalitis symptoms and coverage of the disease under AB-PMJAY. Posters have been put up in public hospitals for increased awareness.

(c) Under AB-PMJAY, 1393 benefit packages have been put in place for usage of hospitals empanelled under the scheme for providing the treatment to the beneficiaries. There are 8 health benefit packages related to encephalitis and two of them are for AES.

(d) ‘Public Health and Hospitals’ being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure capacity building of hospitals in districts lies with respective State Governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare infrastructure including support for building capacity of the public health facilities based on the proposals received from them. Other measures taken by the government to build the capacity of the districts in handling various emergencies are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE)/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in 31 high burdened districts of 5 States namely Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu 10-bedded Pediatric ICUs have been established.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government to build the capacity of the districts in handling various emergencies

- I. MBBS doctors are trained in Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) so as to be able to manage complications during delivery or conduct C-sections to save the life of the mother and foetus.
- II. MBBS doctors are also trained into Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) to skill them in providing appropriate and adequate anaesthesia for emergency obstetric procedures. Both EmOC & LSAS initiatives help strengthen the hospitals in the districts in providing emergency obstetric services, thereby help in reducing maternal deaths and stillbirth in the country.

- III. Government of India mandates presence of a Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) (a nurse, midwife, doctor etc.) in the Labour rooms who is trained in the skills needed to manage normal deliveries, childbirth and immediate post-partum period, and identification, management and referral of complicated cases.
- IV. Capacity building of doctors and nurses in skill lab for provision of essential and emergency obstetric care.
- V. Initiation of training courses e.g. Diplomate of National Board (DNB) at the District Hospitals to address issues of lack of specialists in the districts.
- VI. Provision of a Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at district hospitals for management of sick new-borns/children.

Multi-disciplinary group to monitor Encephalitis outbreak

2647. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to constitute a permanent multi-disciplinary group of experts at the Centre to monitor and formulate measures to be taken in the event of outbreak of such a situation like Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) or Japanese Encephalitis (JE);
- (b) if so, the composition of this group; and
- (c) what measures are being taken to further strengthen the management of AES and JE cases in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Government has decided to constitute inter-disciplinary, high quality research team to establish precise cause of recent Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) outbreak and also for timely intervention and management of AES in future to save precious human lives.

(c) 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.