

AES outbreak in Assam

3415. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has recorded a number of deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Central Team visited Assam to review the situation and if so, the details of observations made by the team and measures suggested; and

(d) the details of logistic and technical support extended by Government to the State Government of Assam to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) 214 deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) are reported in 2019 till 18th July by the State.

(c) The Central Teams have visited Assam on 30th June-01st July 2019 and 08th-10th July, 2019 to review the situation and provide technical assistance to the State.

The teams observed that Japanese Encephalitis (JE) transmission is going on in the State but at the same time transmission of other pathogens like scrub typhus, leptospirosis is also observed. The State Health Authorities have already taken large number of action to tackle the problem. However, issues related to over suspicion of AES and over diagnosis of JE, testing algorithm, treatment protocol and vector management were observed and State and District Health Authorities were advised accordingly.

(d) Following are the logistic and technical support extended by the Central Government to the State Government of Assam:

- There are 28 Sentinel Site Hospitals and 1 Apex Referral Laboratory identified for which 143 Japanese Encephalitis (JE) IgM ELISA kits have been supplied till 18th July, 2019
- The funds have been provided for establishment of 10 bedded Pediatric ICUs (PICOs) for 8 of 10 high endemic districts. Four PICUs are functional till date.

- Funds have been provided for strengthening of 2 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) Department in 2 districts of Assam which yet to be made functional.
- All 27 endemic districts have been covered under JE Vaccination Campaign as part of Routine Immunization (RI).
- 9 districts have been covered under adult JE vaccination and additional adult JE vaccination in 9 districts has been conducted as a state initiative.

Delay in delivery of indented medicines

3416. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

- (a) whether the process of indenting medicines in the Homoeopathic dispensaries under CGHS has still not been computerised like it is in case of allopathic dispensaries;
- (b) whether the delivery of indented medicines to the beneficiaries takes an inordinately long time, some time, more than one month;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in many of the medicine counters, general medicines are not available in dispensaries, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps contemplated to be taken by Government to resolve these problems; and
- (e) the timeline by which these problems will be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) CGHS could not empanel Authorized Local Chemist (ALC) under Homeopathy due to inadequate bid response and therefore, computerizing indenting process for the same could also not be done.

(b) There is no inordinate delay in procurement of indented medicines. If medicines are required immediately there is a provision for issue of Authority Slip to collect medicines directly from ALC.

(c) to (e) Commonly prescribed medicines are available in CGHS Wellness Centres. If any medicines are not readily available or outside the formulary, the same are procured from ALC and supplied to the beneficiary.