

Institutes upto 70 years of age has also been allowed to meet the shortage of Faculty in the six new AIIMS. Walk-in-interview for engagement of Faculty on contract basis has also been allowed as a stop gap arrangement.

OCI card holders have been allowed to be appointed on faculty positions.

### **Congo fever**

1717. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patients suffering from Congo fever were detected in Gujarat and Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what precautionary and other measures Government has taken to deal with Congo fever in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) The details of cases of Congo fever detected this year in Gujarat and Rajasthan are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of Cases
1.	Gujarat	28
2.	Rajasthan	5

(b) Government of India deputed Central teams from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi to Gujarat (from 05/09/2019 to 11/09/2019) and to Rajasthan (from 03/09/2019 to 20/09/2019) to assess Congo fever situation in the States. Following recommendation have been made to prevent and control Congo fever:—

- Mapping of high risk areas (Blocks and districts) with the help of available Human and animal/tick sero-surveillance data.
- Preparedness activities (training, sero-surveys, availability of logistics and Information, Education and Communication (IEC)) to be planned ahead of identified high transmission season.
- Enhanced surveillance in high-risk areas.
- Activities during outbreaks:—

- Operationalisation of State and District control centre with daily reporting from affected Districts in standardised format
- Following standard case definitions for suspected, probable and lab confirmed case.
- Adoption of Congo fever prevention and control guidelines.
- Epidemiological investigation by Multi-disciplinary Rapid Response Teams (involve Epidemiologists-Epidemic Intelligence Service officers, Animal husbandry, Entomologists).
- Early detection and case isolation in designated facilities for management along with contact listing.
- De-tick measures, IEC for early reporting, surveillance and monitoring Standard Operating Procedures.
- De-ticking activities among cattle (prior to high transmission season so as to decrease tick load among cattle) by Animal Husbandry department.

#### **One couple-one child policy**

†1718. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the policy of 'one couple-one child in order to ensure population control; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to implement this, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) The Government is not considering any such proposal at present since India is a signatory to the ICPD declaration of 1994 held at Cairo (International Conference on Population and Development) which advocates voluntary choice and honouring of reproductive rights of couples to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.