

As the number of patients in OPD and IPD in new AIIMS has increased, it indicates that the unmet need of patients is now being catered to, earlier which were receiving treatment at local hospital or not taking any treatment. Creation of new AIIMS has given such population better accessibility to specialised treatment.

Replication of waiting huts for pregnant women project

273. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government is planning to replicate West Bengal's 'Waiting Huts for Pregnant Women' project throughout the country, which has recently won the Skoch Award and has increased the institutional delivery of babies, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): Under National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare system including support for Birth waiting Hemes, based on the requirements posted by them within their overall resource envelope.

Proposals are received from all the States/UTs in the form of programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). The PIPs are approved in the National program Coordination Committee (NPCC) meetings and Record of proceedings (RoPs) is drawn every year.

As per the proposals received from the State/UTs, the Birth Waiting Homes similar to Birth Waiting Huts have been approved in 7 States (West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat) to increase Institutional deliveries in hard to reach areas.

Ban of pan masala

274. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains data of oral cancer deaths due to consumption of Pan Masala, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether steps have been taken to ensure the ban on Pan Masala and similar products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated number of mortality due to cancer of mouth was 34,668, 37,212 and 39,951 in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively. These estimates are however subject to certain limitations on data. Also, there is no separate data available to ascribe the above deaths to Pan Masala consumption.

(b) and (c) Standards of Pan Masala are specified under sub-regulations 2.11.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has not issued any direction to ban Pan Masala. However, as per provisions of sub-regulation 2.4.5 (3) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, every package of Pan Masala and advertisement relating thereto is required to carry the following warning, namely- "Chewing of Pan Masala is injurious to health."

Further, sub-regulation 2.3.4 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 provides that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food product, which includes Pan Masala also.

Enforcement of provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules & Regulations made thereunder primarily lies with States/UTs. As per sub-section 2 of Section 30 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Commissioners of Food Safety has been conferred with power to prohibit injurious products in the interest of Public Health. Accordingly, most of the States/UTs have already banned products including gutkha and panmasala containing tobacco and nicotine.

To comply with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder, regular surveillance, monitoring, sampling of food items including Pan Masala is done and inspections are carried out by Food Safety Officials of States/UTs. In cases where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, recourse is taken to the penal provisions under Chapter IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

Cold chain for vaccines

275. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: