

(c) The death-cases as per latest available data, decreased in 1998 as compared to the previous years.

Shortage of doctors and staff in hospitals

†52. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in almost all the hospitals including AIIMS, patients have to suffer as a result of shortage of doctors and other staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to fill up the said vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The filling up of the vacant posts of doctors and staff in Central Government Hospitals is a continuous process. In AIIMS consequent upon the judgement of the court, the vacant posts of Assistant Professors have been advertised for making regular appointments.

Inadequate medical facilities in rural and hilly areas

53. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequate medical facilities available in rural areas especially in forest and hilly areas where most of the people are below the poverty line;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to financially assist the State Governments for setting up of dispensaries in these areas in order to provide proper medical facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial allocation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in several States there is a shortage of health facilities against the laid down norms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for the establishment of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. As the establishment of these facilities is the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government has been repeatedly advising them to fill the gaps. Financial assistance is however being provided for repairs and renovation of the health facilities, procurement of equipments and drugs.

(b) There is no proposal to establish dispensaries in rural or under served areas with financial assistance from the Central Government.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Taking away of autonomous powers of MCI

54. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to take away from the Medical Council of India its autonomous powers to supervise all matters concerning medical education, such as running of colleges, framing of syllabi, quality control etc., and to replace the medical professionals with officers of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the justification for the switch over in favour of non-professionals, who may have no medical background?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Drug testing

55. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consumer can take a strip of medicine and get it tested in any authorized laboratory to detect a fake drug;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such laboratories in Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata; and

(c) how an average consumer can detect a fake drug without such testing facility?