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| Tamil Nadu | 42 | 43 | 41 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 45 | 46 | 44 |
| West Bengal | 39 | 38 | 30 |

All-India network to tackle fatal diseases

1533. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to have All-India network to tackle fatal diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As a Public Health measure, Government of India has been implementing various National Health Programmes. The National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases is one of these programmes. The National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases was launched as a pilot programme in 1997-1998 in 5 districts (one each in Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat) with a view to strengthen the disease surveillance system so that early warning signals of outbreak are recognized and appropriate follow-up action is initiated. The programme is being implemented through the existing health infrastructure programme and surveillance system involving training of medical and para-medical personnel, upgradation of laboratories, and improvement in communication system. The programme is currently implemented in 80 districts.

Under the Tenth Five Year Plan, a project Implementation Plan, integrating various activities under the programme is envisaged to be prepared so as to strengthen the existing surveillance system at the district, State and National levels and to build up additional capacities for effective communication and technology, upgradation of laboratories etc., ensure involvement of public and private sector institutions, private practitioners and NGOs in the process of effective implementation of disease surveillance programme. This

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RAJYA SABHA

would integrate non-communicable diseases also in the programme, develop proper urban surveillance systems, and utilization of available resources and to bring about effective inter-sectoral cooperation among various agencies in the Health and Non-Health Sector.

Vacancies of members in MCI

1534. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India is functioning with only 77 members against the stipulated 123;

(b) if so, the reasons for not filling the vacancies of elected members in time; and

(c) the action taken against the officials for not taking timely action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present out of the effective total strength of 118 members in the Medical Council of India, 73 seats are filled up.

(b) and (c) Among the 45 vacancies in the Council at present, 44 vacancies are from the elected category of members representing the Universities, the Registered Medical Graduates in the States and the persons with Licentiate medical qualification. In spite of repeated requests made by the Central Government and the Medical Council of India, some of the Universities and the Returning Officers who are required to conduct elections for these categories have not been able to do so for a long time due to various technical difficulties.