

to FIPB, including proposals involving Chinese investment, are considered after necessary Inter-Ministerial consultations.

TB patients in the country

†*347. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per the latest WHO report, the number of TB patients in the country is reported to be the largest in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government have taken to check the increasing number of such patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India accounts for nearly one-third of the global TB burden. It is estimated that every year about 2 million new cases are occurring in the country of which about 50% are Sputum positive, which are infectious cases of TB. However, the incidence of TB in India estimated by WHO at 178 cases per Lakh population is lower than the rate of incidence in many high ranking countries but due to the large population size in India, the actual number of patients in the country is larger.

To control the disease, National TB Control Programme is in operation in the country since 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme, widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by Sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. fOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is double that of the earlier programme.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, about 600 million population has been covered at present. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005 under the revised strategy.

Employment to disabled persons in Jharkhand

*348. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any order to various Ministries/Departments/agencies to give priority in employment to the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in providing employment to disabled persons in Jharkhand as compared to other States?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in employment in the establishment of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings against posts identified as suitable for persons with disabilities.

The Government has notified a revised list of posts identified for Persons with Disabilities in the establishments of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings in June, 2001. All Central Ministries/Departments have been requested by Department of Personnel and Training that while sending the requisitions for filling