(b) Government of India, Department of Family Welfare has various schemes to bring down the Infant Mortality Rate. The recent initiative, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme launching in 1997, is under implementation in all States. Under this, immunisation against six vaccine preventable diseases, facilities for appropriate management of acute respiratory infections, Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) for management of diarrhoeal diseases and essential new born care services are provided. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices and prophylaxis againt Vitamin-A and iron deficiencies are also provided to improve the nutritional status of children. The Department of Women and Child Development has been implementing National Programmes like Integrated Child Development Services, which looks after the nutritional requirements of children.

Stock of Anti-venom and Anti-rabies serum

3938. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present stock of anti-venom serum for snake-bite and anti-rabies serum is not adequate to meet the requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to produce indigenously or to import both the serums to keep the stock intact; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) There is sufficient stock of anti-venom serum for snake-bite and anti-rabies serum to meet the requirement in the country. These sera are indigenously produced in public as well as private sector in the country.

NPCB in Andhra Pradesh

3939. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of National Programme for Control of Blindness in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) how effectively it has been implemented in the State during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?