

The first component is the largest component: (Rs.77.23 crores approx.) and provides for construction, equipping and staffing of a large number of service centres (sub-centres, New PHCs, Old PHCs, CHCs, training Centres and staff quarters) in the four selected districts. The remaining three components aim at generation of demand for services, improvement in the technical and management skills of the personnel and improvement in the management practices and systems over the entire State.

Thalassaemia Disease in Children

2753. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thalassaemia disease is affecting children in the country on a fairly wide scale and if so, the details thereof, State-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 4 of 300 known cases of this disease in the capital are receiving treatment being too expensive and if so, the remedial steps proposed to mitigate the suffering amongst the weaker sections ; and

(c) whether ICMR/PG Medical Institutions are working on this disease and if so, since when and with what results so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : Yes, Sir. In general population, the incidence of Thalassaemia trait is observed between 3 to 11 percent. State-wise details of the children affected by the disease are not available as it is a rare disease.

(b) N.D.M.C. hospital administration at Moti Bagh is providing facilities for giving blood transfusion to 8 children daily. The N.D.M.C. administration has further agreed to provide specialised treatment by way of providing Desferal injections and Leucocyte filters for 50 children. Regarding remedial steps proposed to mitigate the suffering amongst weaker sections, the basic approach consists of identification of 'at risk' couples and opportunity for ante-natal diagnosis. With this in mind, I.C.M.R. has set up a centre of

prenatal diagnosis of Thalassaemia at the Institute of Immunohaematology, Bombay where the basic methodology has been already standardised and data on normal samples is being collected. A notification has already been issued through the ICMR bulletin that any interested party can approach the Institute for antenatal diagnosis of Thalassaemia.

(c) The ICMR has initiated a 3 year long collaborative study on Thalassaemia in August, 1983 at the following three centres :—

1. Institute of Immunohaematology, Bombay.
2. University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
3. School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

The laboratory techniques have been standardised and the survey is in progress.

Besides, indepth studies on Thalassaemia have been carried out recently at the Council's Haematology Unit at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. The salient findings of the study are :

1. Thalassaemic subjects are more prone and susceptible to fevers.
2. It appears that the immune status of these subjects is altered.
3. Repeat surveys carried out in Bengalee population revealed a considerable higher value for Thalassaemia trait in a recent survey ; the reasons for this increase are being evaluated.

Declaration of Road from Ongole to Rajchur as National Highway

2754. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have approached the Centre to take over the road from Ongole to Rajchur via Giddalore, Nandyal, Kurnool