

Down Syndrome

1145. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of Down Syndrome reported in each State during the last three years;

(b) whether specialist centres exist in these States to treat this disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Statewise information about the number of cases of down syndrome is not available. It is estimated that incidence of Down's Syndrome is about 1 per 1000 new births.

(b) and (c). The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed technical expertise at Genetic Research Centre at Bai Jorbai Wadia Hospital for Children in Bombay. In addition, the Council has supported research projects in the field of genetics at Sanjay Gandhi Institute, Lucknow, AIIMS, New Delhi, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and B.J. Medical College, Pune. These centres have over the years built up infrastructure and expertise in diagnosis and management in such genetic disorders.

(d) Incidence of Down Syndrome is higher among children born to women over 35 years of age. With the acceptance of small family norms, pregnancies in the age group would be less which is

expected to reduce the incidence of Down Syndrome.

Nickel in Choclates

1146. SHRI RAJNATH SONKER SHASTRI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1531 on March 4, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the Government have received the reports from the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad and the Indian Council of Medical Research on the danger posed by the presence of Nickel in Choclates; and

(b) if so, the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reports are under examination. The matter is also initiated in Delhi High Court and Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court.

Creamy Layer in Mandal Commission Report

1147. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations to avoid Creamy layer in 27% reservation facilities from Mandal Commission Report; and