

(c) whether the said medicine has been tested and found fit for use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The technology for an anti-cancer drug 'Etoposide' has been developed which involves the use of podophyllotoxin. It has been found to be useful for the treatment of cancer of lung, ovary, test sand lymphoma, etc. The brand name of the drug is 'Atocid'.

(c) and (d) Government has examined the efficacy and safety data of the medicine in consultation with cancer experts and has approved the drug for marketing.

Kala-Azar Disease

2010. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various parts of the country had been in the grip of Kala-azar during the last two months;

(b) if so, the names of the worse affected States and the number of persons died as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Kala-azar is endemic only in two States viz., Bihar and West Bengal. During the last two months, 258 deaths due to Kala-azar has been reported from West Bengal during the last two months.

(c) The following specific steps are being undertaken to contain the spread of this disease;

-Systematic case detection & treatment of all patients with drugs like Sodium Stibu Gluconate, Pentamidine etc.

-Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas

-with two rounds of DDT.

-Improvement of general sanitation in and around the house to eliminate breeding ground or sandfly, the vector for Kala-azar.

-Intensification of health education activities for disease

-prevention.

-Praining of medical and para-medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases.

Literacy rate in tribal areas

2011. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATEL: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of literacy in tribal and backward areas;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government for spreading literacy in these areas;

(c) whether the number of school going children is still very less in tribal areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for increasing the percentage thereof;