

Mystery Disease in Calcutta

122. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "Mystery disease claims 5 children in Calcutta" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated October 15, 1997.

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked a detailed report from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Central assistance propose to be given to State Government to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Health Care

123. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop infrastructure during Ninth Five Year Plan to provide adequate health care in the country;

(b) if so, the details of problems identified and programmes proposed to be undertaken to provide adequate health care in that plan period; and

(c) the details of the estimated funds proposed to be made available to meet the health care requirement in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The consolidation and upgradation of the secondary health infrastructure has been taken up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Punjab under the State Health Systems Projects. A few other States have been given the opportunity to seek assistance for similar upgradation of the infrastructure particularly where the health indices are low. The projects seek to fill critical gaps in infrastructure, manpower, equipment, consumables and drugs. Thrust has also been given inter-alia to contain communicable diseases particularly where prevalence is high, improvement of Surveillance and epidemic response systems, reproductive and child health,

renovation and modernisation of institutions and organisations in the Central health sector as well as health promotion and education.

(c) Ninth Plan outlay is under finalisation in the Planning Commission.

AIDS

124. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a comprehensive National policy with a view to involve the entire country in the Anti-AIDS campaign;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy being formulated and its likely impact and present status;

(c) the funds made available to the State Governments during the current year and actual utilisation thereof for the purpose;

(d) the details of availability of foreign funds and their actual utilisation for AIDS projects so far;

(e) whether there is any special cell functioning in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give counsel to the AIDS patients/general people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) An overall policy which inter-alia addresses social and ethical issues connected with HIV/AIDS is at the preliminary stage of formulation.

(c) and (d) During 1997-98 funds to the extent of Rs. 26.90 crores have been released to various States/ Union Territories under the National AIDS Control Programme. As against IDA credit of US \$84 million, Government of India has received disbursement of US \$60.59 million.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. AIDS patients and general public are being provided counselling on HIV/AIDS/STDs in a model counselling centre at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, in collaboration with STD Department of Safdarjung Hospital, UNAIDS and NGOs. Apart from this, a telephonic counselling facility at Delhi has also been started. Counsellors at grassroot level are being trained to meet the growing need for HIV/AIDS information at the Government level.