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Title: Need to organize public awareness including free treatment to deal with Hepatitis C cases in Haryana particularly in rural areas.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): In Haryana the number of people affected by Hepatitis C is larger than any other parts of the country and majority of them are poor. Since the cost for the treatment of Hepatitis C is very costly, it is very difficult for the affected poor people who are primarily from the farming and labour community to afford the proper treatment and because of inadequate treatment the death due to the infection of Hepatitis C could not be averted. Further, the prevalence of hepatitis C infection is more in the males especially in the rural areas. For example out of 152 tests, 31 cases were identified recently as Hepatitis C positive at village Belratha, District Jind. Therefore, I urge the government to organize public awareness and health education campaign in the state particularly in rural areas and provide free treatment for the affected poor people in the state and save their lives immediately.