

preventable diseases, Acute respiratory diseases, Diarrheal diseases and quality of newborn care. States are being continuously urged to ensure 100% immunization and they are being supported by Government of India by supply of vaccines and drugs needed for these conditions. Skills of health functionaries are being strengthened by inservice training programme and people are being encouraged to use these services through information, Education and Communication. Assistance to States in these areas and strengthening of facilities is being continued under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme being implemented during the Ninth Plan period. These measures are expected to substantially bring down infant mortality rate in the country in coming years.

Statement

Infant mortality rate, India and major States (1996)
(Source-Sample Registration Scheme)

	1986	1990	1995	1996
India	96	80	74*	72*
Major States				
1. Andhra Pradesh	82	70	67	65
2. Assam	109	76	77	74
3. Bihar	101	75	73	71
4. Gujarat	107	72	62	61
5. Haryana	85	69	69	68
6. Karnataka	73	70	62	53
7. Kerala	27	17	15	14
8. Madhya Pradesh	118	111	99	97
9. Maharashtra	63	58	55	48
10. Orissa	123	122	103	96
11. Punjab	68	61	54	51
12. Rajasthan	107	84	86	85
13. Tamil Nadu	80	59	54	53
14. Uttar Pradesh	132	99	86	85
15. West Bengal	71	63	58	55

* Excludes Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

Research Programme on Gas Hydrates

*393. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Department's Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) has pulled out of the joint

research programme on gas hydrates with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any agreement was signed by the NRL and GAIL;

(d) whether the Government intends to go ahead with the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) There is no formal agreement between Naval Research Laboratory of U.S. Defence Department and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) on the research programme on gas hydrates.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The National Gas Hydrate Programme is a collaborative programme in which GAIL, ONGC, OIL, Directorate of Hydrocarbons, CSIR Laboratories and several other academic and research organisation are involved. The programme is in its preliminary stages and has the objective of extracting Methane from the gas hydrates available in the ocean floor sediments.

Eradication of Malaria

*394. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cases of malaria are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases of malaria reported in various States during the first quarter of this year, State-wise;

(c) the details of various steps taken to eradicate malaria from the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that all those measures adopted for eradication of malaria are inadequate;

(e) if not, the reasons for spreading malaria;

(f) whether the tribal areas are more vulnerable in comparison to other areas in the country;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government have drawn up a separate action plan for the tribal areas;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, further steps proposed to be taken or to have programmes to eradicate malaria from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Malaria cases in the country have shown an overall decline in 1997 as compared to 1996.

The number of cases of malaria reported during the first quarter of this year, State-wise may be seen in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (j) A number of measures have been taken to control malaria and particularly in tribal areas of the country which are more vulnerable to malaria as compared to other areas as these are located in remote, forested, difficult or inaccessible areas. These include :

- 100% Central Assistance is being provided to the Seven North - Eastern States since December, 1994.
- An Enhanced Malaria Control project with world Bank support to cover essentially 100 district in Seven States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan as well as 19 towns/cities having endemicity of malaria is being implemented since September, 1997.
- Observance of Anti-Malaria Month in June every year beginning from June, 1997 to create public awareness about Prevention and Containment of malaria and other vector-borne diseases and to propagate the theme "Malaria Control Everyone's Concern" to make it a people's movement in the country.

Apart from supporting certain on-going strategies in the identified areas, newer interventions such as the use of Synthetic Pyrethroids, Medicated Mosquito Nets, Bio-larvicides, Larvivorous Fishes are being resorted to.

Statement

Malaria cases during the 1st quarter of the year 1998

S.No.	States/UTs.	Malaria Cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15405
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3279
3.	Assam	10113
4.	Bihar	6193
5.	Goa	4837
6.	Gujarat	11071
7.	Haryana	1889

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	81
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	256
10.	Karnataka	21900
11.	Kerala	1413
12.	Madhya Pradesh	57208
13.	Maharashtra	30450
14.	Manipur	152
15.	Meghalaya	2257
16.	Mizoram	993
17.	Nagaland	243
18.	Orissa	69986
19.	Punjab	523
20.	Rajasthan	7519
21.	Sikkim	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	12208
23.	Tripura	1654
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7995
25.	West Bengal	6538
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	205
2.	Chandigarh	200
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1277
4.	Daman & Diu	70
5.	Delhi	215
6.	Lakshadweep	0
7.	Pondicherry	48
Total		276184

Supply of contaminated drugs to Unani CGHS Dispensaries

*395. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned 'Fungus in Sealed Drug Bottled' and CGHS relied on Dubious Firm' which appeared in 'The Pioneer' dated September 6 and 15, 1997 respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons for buying Unani drugs from blacklisted firms and supplying these contaminated with fungus drugs to CGHS Unani Dispensaries continuously;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those officials/firms found guilty for such lapses; and