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HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Shri. GHULAM NABI AZADJI

HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Shri. S. GANDHI SELVAN

HON'BLE HEALTH MINISTERS FROM ALL STATES

UNION SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SECRETARIES FROM ALL STATES

MEMBERS FROM THE PRESS

OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AND FRIENDS

I am extremely happy to be here and thankful for the invitation extended to me.

Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar, the State has made impressive progress in the Health Sector.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Government of India for sanctioning Rs. 604.78 Crores under National Rural Health Mission for the year 2008-09 and Rs. 655.01 Crores for the year 2009-10.

National Rural Health Mission is one of the laudable schemes of the United progressive Alliance Government. This scheme paved a way for a healthy nation especially to rural poor.

The State Health Society was constituted in Tamil Nadu during May-2006 only after the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar assumed charge.

As a part of our State's commitment to decrease maternal mortality, PHCs have been made functional 24 hours by appointing 3 staff nurses in all the 1533 PHCs. This intervention has led to dramatic increase in the PHC deliveries. The maternal mortality has been reduced to 79 per 1 lakh live births as compared to rate of 301 per 1 lakh live births in India. The increase in deliveries in PHCs during 2008-09 is 254% when compared to 2005-06. It is estimated that, in this year, the Government helped the poor people to save around Rs.132 Crores by providing this free service in the Government Institutions.

The major innovative schemes implemented through NRHM in TamilNadu include the introduction of caesarean section in PHCs, Hiring of obstetricians & anesthetists for Family Welfare surgeries, setting up of Blood Storage Facilities in PHCs, conduct of blood donation camps, detection of Gestational Diabetes and Control and EMRI services for emergency transport of pregnant women and new born. Mobile Medical Units have been introduced in all 385 blocks to reach the remote villages and unserved population. Provision of PHCs in urban areas in 71 municipalities with less than one lakh population is being implemented. The scheme for screening of 24 lakhs middle school children for refractive error and provision of free spectacles was also launched recently.

I am very happy to inform the august gathering that Tamilnadu is the first state to introduce the provision of free diet in PHCs to Antenatal mothers, delivered mothers and mothers operated for Family Welfare surgeries. Tamilnadu has also notified all the PHCs as Birth and Death Registration units and birth certificates are issued to babies before discharge without collecting any charges from them.

A programme for prevention and treatment of Heart Diseases to young children and school children (Illam Sirar Irudhaya Padhukappu Thittam) was launched during 2007. Under this scheme, heart surgery is done to the children who require the surgery in the accredited private hospitals and Government is paying the surgery cost to the private

hospital. So far, 2336 children have undergone surgery at free of cost and Government paid Rs.13.87 crores to the private hospitals.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme is a unique scheme and Tamil Nadu is the only State implementing the Scheme. Under this scheme all pregnant women of BPL families is given cash benefit of Rs. 6000/- to improve the nutritional status of the pregnant women and also to reduce the low birth weight babies. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Dr.Kalaingar has sanctioned Rs. 1000 Crores to implement the scheme from Sep. 2006. This scheme is implemented through 100% State budget. The above benefit is provided in addition to the financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana scheme provided by Government of India through NRHM.

I am proud to mention here that our Chief Minister has introduced a massive and path breaking health insurance scheme called ' Kalaingar Insurance Scheme for Life Saving Treatments' to provide free treatment for 51 life threatening diseases to all poor families in Tamil Nadu. The Scheme caters more than one crore families of small and marginal farmers, agriculture labourers, unorganised sector labourers and other poor families covering a population of 4 crores. The scheme offers medical insurance coverage up to Rs. one lakh in a block of four years. The entire annual premium amount of Rs. 517 crores for the current year is borne by the State Government. Hon'ble Union Minister for Health has launched the scheme on 23rd July 2009 in the presence of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

All the PHCs have been provided computers with internet facilities for effective communication and reporting. All the VHNS (MPHW-Female) in the Health Sub Centres (8706) have been provided with mobile phones. This has helped in immediate reporting of epidemics, managing delivery and neonatal emergencies.

Due to constant and sustained efforts taken by the State as above, we are able to achieve a reduction in MMR to 79 per 1 lakh live births and IMR to 31 per 1000 live births and TFR to 1.6.

I take this conference as an opportunity to place the further funding requirement to continue our successful endeavors in achieving the objectives of NRHM. I request the Hon'ble Union Health Minister Shri Gulam Nabi Azadji to kindly sanction an additional amount of Rs.286 crores to strengthen the Health infrastructures in the Primary Health Centres, Health Sub-Centres and the Rural Hospitals and to establish the new infrastructures in Tamil Nadu.

Preventive and Control measures taken by Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu to combat spread of Influenza A H1N1

12 Medical teams are formed to screen International Travelers at the three Airports – Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy. This activity started on 29th April, 2009. So far, 8 Lakhs 27 thousand and 182 passengers have been screened. Arrangements also have been

made to screen the crew in the sea ports. So far 7702 crew members have been screened. Tracking of Co-passengers of the positive cases are being carried out.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu, Deputy Chief Minister has reviewed the prevention and control activities of A H1N1. I have convened 6 meetings and monitored and reviewed the situation frequently. Chief Secretary to Government and Principal Secretary to Health and Family Welfare Department have also conducted meetings and reviewed the situation as and when required with the Health Department and the other department officials, Private Practitioners and Doctors from Private Hospitals, NGOs, Government of India Officials, Airport Authorities, Officials from Chennai Corporation and Private Laboratories.

A 24X7 helpline was established at State Headquarters with phone number 044-24321569. Thousands of calls have been received and clarified.

Isolation wards have been established in all Medical College Hospitals, District Head Quarters Hospital and Communicable Disease Hospital, Tondiarpet, Chennai.

Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu convened a co-ordination meeting of private hospitals in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur District requesting them to establish isolation wards to treat suspected cases of A H1N1 in their Hospital / Clinics and to intimate the patients details to the Public Health Department Officers.

Ambulance services have been provided to Airport for transport of the suspect cases. Medical Teams have been formed to screen passengers at Chennai Central Railway Station.

In addition to 3 Laboratories approved by Government of India for Tamilnadu, 9 private Laboratories have been approved across the State. All the District Collectors have been sensitized about A H1N1 and also their role to combat the A H1N1 in the District.

Guidelines have also been issued to all Schools and Colleges to sensitize their students.

Clinical Management protocol and Infection control guidelines received from Government of India was printed and issued to all the district level health functionaries.

A meeting was convened with the Military Hospital Authorities to keep ready the isolation ward in case of major catastrophe. A meeting was convened with Consulates of Foreign embassies in Chennai to discuss the quarantine facilities for diplomats and officials of UN Organisation.

CD Alert and frequently asked questions on A H1N1 has been circulated to all the district level health functionaries and also published in the TamilNadu Government web site.

IEC

Press release, Media briefing, Advertisements, distribution of Hand bills, Workshops, Seminars, etc., have been done. IEC materials have been prepared with UNICEF assistance and the same have been distributed.

Logistics

We have adequate quantity of Tami flu Capsules. But we require huge quantities of N95 masks, Triple layer masks and Personal Protective Equipments and testing kits.

Present Situation

Number of positive cases are 129. One boy aged 4 from a private hospital is reported to have died due to A H1N1. But the boy died due to multiple organ failure. A H1N1 was detected very late by the private hospital. 79 cases have been treated and they have recovered and discharged. Other 49 cases are under treatment in the Hospitals. Now the situation of A H1N1 is well under control. The panic created by media is declining

I request the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to consider the proposal of this Government for sanction of Rs.16 crores for clearing out various activities to control the A H1N1 Influenza in Tamil Nadu.

At present there is only one communicable disease hospital in chennai under the administrative control of Chennai Corporation and is located in the remote corner of the city. To manage emergencies due to emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases, it is felt necessary to established one more communicable disease hospital at chennai at estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores.

This facility may be established either at King Institute, Guindy, Chennai or Tambaram, Chennai. I request the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health to consider this proposal.

I once again thank you for having given this opportunity to attend this Conference.

Vanakkam.

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