

| <b>Table 1.2: Comparison of country data on notifiable infective diseases pre and post tsunami</b> |                 |      |                  |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Infectious disease                                                                                 | Number of cases |      |                  |      |
|                                                                                                    | 2004            | 2005 | January to March |      |
|                                                                                                    |                 |      | 2004             | 2005 |
| Cholera                                                                                            | 0               | 0    | 0                | 0    |
| Dysentery                                                                                          | 6289            | 7723 | 1303             | 1508 |
| Enteric fever                                                                                      | 2375            | 2298 | 727              | 697  |
| Leptospirosis                                                                                      | 1132            | 1504 | 286              | 401  |
| Viral Hepatitis                                                                                    | 1576            | 2214 | 552              | 402  |
| Dengue haemorrhagic fever                                                                          | 15155           | 5608 | 1921             | 830  |
| Encephalitis                                                                                       | 107             | 62   | 29               | 17   |
| Measles                                                                                            | 78              | 45   | 16               | 21   |
| Tuberculosis                                                                                       | 8576            | 9601 | 1676             | 2513 |

### ***Status of Pharmaceuticals***

In Sri Lanka, regulation on pharmaceuticals was enacted in the year 1980 (14) and the registration of cosmetics, devices and drugs was started in year 1987 and is a prerequisite for importing and marketing a pharmaceutical product in the country. As at November 2004, the total number of registered pharmaceutical products was 9345 for 884 drug substances: 87% single ingredients and 13% fixed-dose combinations (15). India supplies approximately 45% of the pharmaceuticals to Sri Lanka followed by Pakistan, UK, Switzerland, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand and Cyprus. Local manufacture contributes to about 6% of the registered products.

The Cosmetic Devices and Drugs regulation of 1985 requires the container of every drug imported, manufactured, processed or packed locally or sold or exposed for sale to have a label bearing the non proprietary name, brand name, list of active ingredients and their weight, any special storage conditions, warnings and precautions, date of manufacture, date of expiry, the batch or lot number assigned by the manufacturer and the name and address of the manufacturer. The container of every drug specified in schedule 11 should in addition be accompanied by a printed product information leaflet.

Sri Lanka has an essential drugs list prepared by the MOH. It was first compiled in 1985. The last published list is the third version revised in 1999 and includes 231 drug substances. It is presently in the process of revision. It is based on the World Health Organisations Model Essential Medicines List (WHO - EML). WHO defines "Essential drugs" as those that satisfy the health needs of the majority of the population? The WHO – EML is revised every two years.

The Medical Supplies Division (MSD) which comes under the jurisdiction of the MOH is the central point in deciding national requirements, storage and distribution of medical supplies. Medicines for the MSD are procured by the State Pharmaceutical Corporation. The MSD is headed by the Director who is assisted by assistant directors, pharmacists, planning officers, and store keepers. The main office of the MSD is located at Deans Road, Colombo 10, but the main drug store is scattered in four different places which makes administration difficult. In addition to pharmaceuticals the MSD deals with surgical items and devices.