

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:401

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003

MYSTERIOUS DISEASES

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware of the mysterious diseases which are prevalent in some states ;
- (b) if so, whether some mysterious diseases have claimed many lives in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in the past few months;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the assistance other than financial rendered by the Union Government to the affected states?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. In the month of May, 2003, influenza B has caused 719 cases and 45 deaths in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. Recently Viral Encephalitis has caused 257 cases and 141 deaths in 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(d): Expert teams from National Institute of Communicable Diseases and National Institute of Virology were sent to both the affected States to investigate the outbreak and advise on public health measures. A team of pediatricians from the Central Government hospitals in Delhi are also assisting the State Govt. in clinical management of the cases.