

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:678
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
REPORT ON DROPSY
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `66 dropsy death in 1998` appearing in Times of India, dated April 7, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Department of Delhi is responsible for this epidemic;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the nexus between PFA Department with laboratories is shielding the trader;
- (e) if so, the facts thereof;
- (f) whether CAG has given its report on the dropsy in Delhi;
- (g) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) According to the information made available by the Government of Delhi, the matter has been enquired into by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration has not been held responsible for this epidemic. The CBI after enquiring into the matter, has filed two cases before the Addl. Session Judge Delhi against certain persons/traders for hatching a criminal conspiracy to adulterate mustard oil with argemone, which resulted in dropsy.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f), (g) & (h) According to Government of Delhi, it has received the Report of the CAG and after considering the said Report it has sent appropriate reply to the CAG and has also taken up suitable measures to avoid recurrence of dropsy in Delhi.