

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2955
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
GLOBAL POLIO CASES
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

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

- (a) the reasons for India accounting for 68 percent of the global polio cases in 1998;
- (b) whether India is the only existing reservoir for type II polio virus in the globe; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate polio by 2000?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Universal Immunization Programme which was launched in 1985 covered all districts by 1990 in which Oral Polio Vaccine to control spread of polio was one of the vaccine. The polio eradication effort was further strengthened by implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in 1995-96. Most of the countries in the World initiated polio control measures much earlier than India. Thus, they have been able to eradicate polio much earlier than India. However with the implementation of immunization programme in India there has been around 85% decline over the last ten years and India accounted for 68% of global cases in 1988 reported 31% of global cases in 1999.

(b) WHO considers India as the only existing reservoir for type II Polio Virus in the world as PolioVirus II isolation has not been reported from any other country except India.

(c) For eradicating polio from the country, the Pulse Polio Immunization campaign was launched in 1995-96. In this campaign all children upto the age of 5 years are given polio drops on a single day. Upto 1998-99, two rounds of Pulse Polio campaign were conducted every year during December and January. Based on the surveillance data and expert advice, the efforts have now been intensified and during 1999-2000, four rounds of PPI are being held throughout the country followed by two additional rounds in eight high risk States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The intensive rounds are spread over 3-4 days. On the first day the children are immunized at the fixed polio booths and from 2nd day onwards teams of health workers go from house to house to immunize children who may be left over from the first day. States have been provided with funds to create awareness through information, education and education efforts and by involving the Panchayat members for reaching all children in the age group of 0-5 years. In addition, the Government is also taking steps to improve the routine immunization programme (including polio) all over the country.