

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2971
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
ANTI RABIES VACCINE
KAILASHO DEVI;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government have made a study of the rise in rabies cases especially in rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of such cases in India as compared to World;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide Anti-rabies vaccine at all PHCs in the country;
- (e) whether a new anti-rabies vaccine has been introduced;
- (f) if so, whether the National Institute of Communicable Disease has examined the newly developed drug; and (g) if so, the time by which the Government propose to give that anti-rabies vaccine through its hospitals?

Answer

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

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)to(c) Rabies in India has been identified by World Health Organization under high incidence category amongst South East Asian Countries. As per data collected by Central Bureau of Health intelligence, the number of rabies/dog-bite cases and deaths during 1995-98 are as under:

Year	Cases	Deaths
1995	6335	632
1996	7852	281
1997	11529	386
1998	12504	365

(d) Anti rabies vaccine is available for animal bite cases free of cost in various Government Health facilities. Health being a State subject, the availability of the anti-rabies vaccine at PHC level varies from State to State. In most States/Union Territories, the vaccine is available up to CHC level.

(e)to(g) The Human Biological Institute, Udhagamandalam, under the control of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed a new Anti-rabies (Tissue Culture) Vaccine under trade name ABHAYRAB. The new drug has been examined and cleared, as per the Statutory Rules, by the Directorate General of Health Services. The NDDB has also developed a liquid Rabies Vaccine (Gel absorbed). The said vaccine is undergoing clinical studies in the country. Anti Rabies Vaccines are procured by the State Governments and supplied to their Health Centres as per their policy on the subject.