

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2984
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
IODINE DEFICIENCY
BRAJ MOHAN RAM;SUBODH ROY

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

- (a) whether the people are suffering from iodine deficiencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check the spread of diseases caused due to lack of iodine content in the food items; and
- (d) the number of persons fallen sick due to lack of iodine during the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

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

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and State Health Directorates have revealed that no State/UT is free from Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Out of 277 districts surveyed so far in 25 States and 5 UTs, 237 districts have been found to be endemic, i.e., where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is more than 10%.

(c) In order to control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country, Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme wherein supply of Iodated salt in place of common salt is an important component of the Programme. So far, 29 States/UTs have issued complete ban on sale of non-iodated salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act while 2 other States have issued partial ban. There is no ban in the State of Kerala.

(d) An estimated 70 million people suffer from Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country. State-wise data is not maintained.