

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3796
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
JAUNDICE DEATHS
AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA

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

- (a) the number of persons died due to jaundice during 1999-2000 till March 31, 2000;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to check jaundice during the said period and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to launch a jaundice vaccination drive in the country like the Polio vaccination drive; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

- (a) As per the latest available figures for the year 1998 there have been 991 deaths due to Jaundice.
- (b) Jaundice is caused by hepatitis A, B, C, D, E and G. Viral Hepatitis A and E are transmitted by contaminated water, food and poor personal hygiene. The control measures for Hepatitis A and E are directed towards provision of safe water supply, improvement of environmental sanitation, food and personal hygiene. The other forms of hepatitis are transmitted through parenteral, sexual route and from mother to child. The following measures have been taken to control of blood borne hepatitis infection:- Mandatory screening of blood at blood banks. Health education activities to promote safe sex behaviour under the National AIDS Control Programme. Instructions issued to the Health authorities for use of a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection. Immunization of high risk personnel in Central Government hospitals. State Governments have been advised to take similar steps.
- (c), (d) and (e) Hepatitis `B` and `C` vaccinations are not covered under the Universal Immunization Programme of the Government, in view of the large expenditure involved.