

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:528

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001

LEPTOSPIROSIS

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

- (a) the number of deaths occurred due to Leptospirosis (Rat Fever) during each of the last three years, upto now, State- wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government have deputed any medical/research team to study this problem;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have chalked out any effective programme to eradicate this disease;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of ICMR Centre on leptospirosis; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 528 FOR 29.8.2001

Leptospirosis is endemic in many States in India, including Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The number of deaths due to leptospirosis in these States during the last three years is given below: .

State/UT	No. of deaths due to Leptospirosis		
	1999	2000	2001
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25	62	NA
Gujarat	32	16	NA
Kerala	93	45	26 (upto 11.7.2001)
Maharashtra		59	28 (upto 27.7.2001)
Tamil Nadu	10	1	N.A.
Karnataka	1	1	N.A.

N.A. Not available

The disease may have occurred in other States/UTs. also but cases or outbreaks have not been notified from these areas.

Government Institutions such as the Indian Council for Medical Research and National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi have sent medical/research teams to investigate outbreaks of leptospirosis to Gujarat and Karnataka in 1997, and Maharashtra, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2000 and Kerala in 2001. The Central Government, through its institutions, has also provided assistance to the State Governments.

Serum samples were collected from the suspected patients residing in the affected areas. Three tests, ELISA, LEPTO-Dipstick and Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) were used. The criterion for confirmation of diagnosis was a positive MAT result. Based on

these results, the diagnosis of leptospirosis was confirmed.

The following steps are suggested by the medical/research teams and have been implemented to control the disease:

• Physicians have been sensitised in affected States.

• Diagnostic support is being provided to the State Governments, wherever required.

• Investigative support is being provided to contain the outbreaks of leptospirosis in any part of the country whenever asked/required.

• To create awareness about the disease, a comprehensive publication has been brought out and circulated to all states, highlighting preventive steps, treatment and steps for awareness creation.

• National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, which is being implemented in 80 districts of the country on pilot basis, is also useful in detecting epidemics.

• Various State Governments have also launched programmes whereby all doctors are sensitised about early diagnosis and treatment of the problem, along with ensuring adequate stock of medicines during the rainy season when most of the outbreaks occur.

• Anti-rodent activities have also been undertaken by many states in order to reduce the risk of Leptospirosis. In September 2000, when there was an outbreak of leptospirosis in Kerala, the Government of Kerala had requested the Government of India to send an expert team from the Port Blair Unit of ICMR to conduct an epidemiological study. Accordingly, the National Leptospirosis Reference Centre of ICMR, Port Blair Unit visited the State of Kerala to investigate the outbreak of leptospirosis in Kerala and suggested various measures to contain the outbreak and precautionary measures.