

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4708

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001

PILOT PROJECT FOR HEPATITIS-B

A. VENKATESH NAIK;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

- (a) whether according to WHO Report about five crore people in India are affected by Hepatitis `B`;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have launched any pilot project in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government propose to provide injections and Medicines of Hepatitis `B` free of cost in the Government hospitals and dispensaries in each State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) : Though exact figures are not available, it is estimated by the WHO that Hepatitis-B virus chronically infects approximately 4% of the population, which would come around four crore people.

A pilot project to introduce Hepatitis-B vaccine in selected cities and districts of the country in order to study the impact of administration on infants is under active consideration of the Government but no fixed time frame can be given for a final decision to be taken in this regard.

While there is no provision to supply Hepatitis-B vaccination free of cost to patients in Government hospitals and dispensaries in the States, Government has taken the following steps to prevent the spread of Hepatitis-B:

Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunised Against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.

Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.

Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme.

Health awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme, and

Guidelines have been issued to State authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.