

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1582

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002

INFECTION OF HEPATITIS - B

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

- (a) whether Hepatitis-B infection is growing at an alarming rate in India;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have any data on the magnitude at which the Hepatitis-B virus had affected the population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check further spreading of this disease;
- (e) the amount allocated on combating this disease during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (f) whether any foreign aid has also been sought for this purpose; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Studies indicate that, about 3 to 5 percent of the population is affected by Hepatitis-B Virus.State-wise details are not available.

(d): Government has taken the following steps:-

- 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.
- Central Government hospitals personnel at high risk to be immunized. State Governments have been advised to take similar steps.

(e)to(g): A pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme has been initiated this year. The pilot project will be implemented with commodity assistance from the Global Alliance for vaccines and Immunization in slums of 15 cities and in 32 districts, over the next two years. In view of the commodity assistance that includes hepatitis-B vaccine, auto disable syringes and safety boxes no funds have been allocated to the states.