

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:343
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) fulfilled its role of being an active institution with the ability to forewarn the Government of impending diseases and other health related problems;
- (b) whether the NICD is unable to respond immediately to the crisis situations around the country;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the NICD a more active body;
- (d) whether the Government propose to bifurcate the National Institute for Communicable Diseases; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is the nodal agency for National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, launched in 1997-98 with the objective of generating early warning signals of outbreaks due to epidemic prone diseases and providing rapid response thereto through capacity building, laboratory strengthening etc. NICD has responded immediately by investigating a total of 75 outbreaks or conducting health status assessments during 1997-2001 all over the country relating to different diseases on the request of various State Governments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.