

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5684  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003  
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME  
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;SHYAMA SINGH;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

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

- (a) whether Uttar Pradesh is posing a major hurdle to the global effort for the eradication of Polio as reported in the Statesman dated April 7, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the WHO has expressed concern over Polio scare in Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) if so, whether the pulse polio vaccination programme has failed to control and eradicate Polio in the state;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the new strategy to be adopted by the Government to eradicate Polio in the State?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): During 2002, UP accounted for 78% of reported cases in the country (1242 out of 1600) and 64% of cases reported globally (1242 out of 1921). UP also accounts for 22 out of 73 cases reported during 2003 so far.

(c)&(d): The number of cases in U.P. declined from 881 in 1998, to 773 in 1999, 179 in 2000 and 216 in 2001. The number of polio-affected districts in UP declined from 46 in 2000 to 30 in 2001. Thus, by the end of 2001, significant progress was achieved in limiting the spread of virus to certain foci in the western and central U.P. However, the polio eradication effort suffered a setback during 2002 due to large scale outbreak in UP and spill over of the transmission into other neighbouring States.

(e): Reduction in the number of polio rounds in UP from 6 during 1999-00 to 4 during 2000-01 to 3 during 2001-02 and 10-15% children were left out unvaccinated during 2001-02 polio rounds.

(f): The yearly strategy for polio eradication is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), epidemiological data and the actual transmission situation in different parts of the country in consultation with the States. As against four rounds during 2002-03, the 2003-04 strategy provides for six rounds in UP during April (already conducted on 6.4.03), June (scheduled for 1.6.03), September 03, November 03, January 04 and February 04. Both the Government of India and the UP State Government are closely monitoring and supervising the polio eradication activities in the State. Various interventions have been made to improve the quality of the polio rounds and to reach out to the un-reached children. The State of U.P. has also taken initiatives to strengthen the routine immunization.