

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4721
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
ASSISTANCE FOR POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether various international donor agencies have provided an additional grant of Rs. 100 crore to India to step up its Pulse Polio Programme so as to hit target of polio eradication by 2005;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the eradication of Polio has been successful in the country;
- (c) whether the Government have chalked out any concrete programme of eradication of polio in endemic States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Over and above the existing commitments of various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, European Commission has agreed to provide a grant of Euro 10 million for polio eradication activities for the year 2003-04. KfW, the German agency for financial assistance, has also committed to provide an assistance of US\$ 7.8 million.

Department for International Development (DFID), of Government of United Kingdom, has also been approached for an additional grant of US\$ 15 million during the current year. In addition, the International Development Association, the soft lending arm of the World Bank, is being approached for an assistance of US\$83.4 million.

(b): Due to successful execution of the polio eradication activities, the number of confirmed polio cases declined from 1934 in 1998 to 268 in 2001. However, the polio efforts suffered a major setback during 2002 due to a large scale outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and spill over transmission into other neighbouring states, due to which number of polio cases increased to 1599 in 2002.

(c)&(d): In order to achieve the eradication of polio virus, the Government is considering intensification of polio activities by conducting two national rounds and four sub-national rounds in high risk states/areas during 2003-04. Following special measures are being taken in states with intense circulation of polio virus:

(i) In order to improve the detection and vaccination of missed children, the house-to-house vaccination teams have been strengthened with the addition of third member preferably a woman from local community.

(ii) The community mobilisers have been engaged for improving the implementation of the programme in resistant areas.

(iii) House-to-house vaccination of missed children is being done for five days after the booth day as against two days in other parts of the country.

(iv) Additional Information, Education and Communication activities are being conducted.

(v) The implementation of the programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in the Government of India as also in the States.

(vi) Local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and ensuring greater participation of the people in the programme.

(vii) One Surveillance Medical Officer has been posted in each district in order to help the states in ensuring better monitoring and supervision.