

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4017

ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003

SPREAD OF PNEUMONIA

AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;C. KUPPUSAMI;KAILASH MEGHWAL;KAMAL NATH;M.V.V.S MURTHI;NVEDITA
MANE;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK;SHYAMA SINGH;V. VETRISILVAN

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation has recently issued a Global warning about the spread of mysterious form of Pneumonia in Asian countries;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government on the warning of WHO have taken any steps in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir. WHO issued a Global alert about the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

(b) & (c) keeping in view the implications of an epidemic, Government of India, has been taken necessary steps which include the following:

- The immigration authorities have been sensitized about symptoms of SARS. A proforma to be filled in by all passengers disembarking in India has been devised and made available to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Shipping to ensure proper check at Airport and Ports and also to sensitize the passengers.
- State/Union Territory governments have been given the standard case definition, patient management and discharge protocols. They have been requested to be in readiness in conformity to the internationally accepted guidelines for managing any suspected case of SARS.
- The health care facilities at International Airports and Ports have been strengthened in addition to the existing facilities. The health staffs have been alerted to monitor passengers of flights and ships arriving in India in consultation with immigration authorities and to report on any suspected case to the concerned Health authorities.
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for laboratory investigation of any suspected /probable case.
- Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have ben arranged in the Central Govt. Hospitals.