

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:226

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000

ERADICATION OF POLIO

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

- (a) Whether the World Bank Organisation had indicated that India need to accelerate its efforts to meet the global deadline for eradication of Polio;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether despite many round of immunization campaigns, fresh cases of Polio have come to the notice of the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to extend its deadline for complete eradication of Polio by 2005; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) and (b) The Government's strategy for polio eradication has been finalized and it is being reviewed every year with the State Governments and also on the basis of recommendations made by national and international experts (WHO and UNICEF). In accordance with the advice received from the experts, the polio eradication strategy was intensified during 1999-2000. The strategy for 2000-2001 has also been finalized after consulting the State Governments and the Committee of experts, which included national and international experts and representatives from WHO and UNICEF.

(c) and (d) Polio transmission used to be widespread in the past in our country. In 1998, India alone was responsible for 68% (1931) of the global incidence of polio. During 1999 the incidence came down 1126 cases in about 192 districts, mostly in UP, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi. During 2000, as on 24.6.2000 there has been 81 confirmed cases only (41 in UP and 30 in Bihar). Thus the polio transmission has been effectively controlled in large parts of the country, while there is a need to continue the intensified strategy in a few States.

(e) and (f) The Government's goal is to achieve zero transmission of polio by the end of the winter season 2000-2001. However, for Global Certification of polio eradication, the country will need to retain the zero polio status for a minimum period of 3 years. Therefore, it is likely that while zero incidence will be achieved much sooner, the global certification for polio eradication may be achieved by 2004-2005.