

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
POISONOUS WHEAT
RAMA PILOT

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that 32 children from North India have been admitted in Apollo Hospital after consuming poisonous wheat as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated July 5, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether according to the child specialist of Apollo Hospital, the wheat consumed by the people in North India is working as poison due to genetic reasons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether consumption of wheat has stunted the development of the children and they are falling prey to several diseases;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) As per the information provided by Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi, 32 children from North India have been diagnosed to have wheat allergy known as Celiac Disease during the last four years. Celiac Disease is a condition characterized by permanent intolerance to gluten which is a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. Children with Celiac Disease show symptoms of irritability, loose motions and weakness. Consumption of wheat causes growth failure only in children with Celiac Disease. For everyone else wheat is a healthy cereal.