

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
POLIO VACCINE SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Polio has made a comeback in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of polio vaccine scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The initiative to eradicate polio from India started in 1995. There was remarkable progress in polio eradication effort and in limiting the spread of virus to certain areas in western and central Uttar Pradesh and Bihar only till 2001.

However, the polio eradication effort suffered a major setback during 2002 due to large scale outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and spill over of the transmission in to other neighboring States. The number of cases has increased from 268 in 2001 to 1600 in 2002. However, supported by the Government of India, the UP program presently demonstrates very strong commitment and highest level monitoring. This has resulted in clear improvements in performance with total missed houses in UP, coming down to around 7% from 12% during the past 6 months.

There has been substantial improvement in polio situation this year and polio eradication has reached a crucial stage, as only 190 confirmed cases have been reported till 22.11.2003 as against 1320 cases reported during last year up to November. Number of reported cases in UP and Karnataka during 2003 till 22nd November, 2003 are 70 and 31 respectively.

Karnataka which has reported zero cases during 2001 and 2002 has reported 31 cases during 2003. This is because of the large immunization gap due to poor coverage under routine immunization in the northern districts of the State. In UP there is substantial improvement in controlling the spread of the virus in the State and only 70 cases have been reported till November as against 1242 cases reported during the year 2002.

India is committed to obtaining polio free certification by 2007. The meeting of the ninth India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) was held on 18-19th November, 2003 at New Delhi with an objective to review the status of polio eradication in India and to recommend the strategy to be adopted in the country for Polio Eradication during 2004-06. In order to contain the spread of the virus and to eradicate polio, the India Expert Advisory Group for polio eradication have recommended the strategy to be adopted for the year 2004. Salient feature of recommendations are submitted below.

1. Polio immunity gaps in endemic and risk states and also within states at district level should be addressed.
2. Recommended strategy for year 2004 Five NIDs in January, February, April, October and November.

One SNID in May in 11 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

Mop-up round

3. Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.
4. The next 6 months is the critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.
5. There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Endemic states should report quantifiable data on routine immunization.

