

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003

POLIO CAMPAIGNS

BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;CHADA SURESH REDDY;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

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

(a) whether despite success of Polio campaigns, the country has not been able to eradicate the polio virus completely from the country, while its neighbouring countries have achieved the goal in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of polio cases actually reduced during the current year as compared to last year; and

(d) the details of further programmes to eradicate polio virus completely from the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) The initiative to eradicate polio from India started in 1995. There was remarkable progress towards achieving this goal till 2001. The number of polio cases declined from 1934 in 1998 to 1126 in 1999 and 265 in 2000. During 2001, although the number of cases remained almost the same as in 2000 (268), the number of polio endemic districts in the country came down from 314 in 1998 to 192 in 1999, 89 in 2000 and 63 in 2001. Thus, by the end of 2001, significant progress was achieved in limiting the spread of virus to certain areas in the western and central Uttar Pradesh and Bihar only.

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.

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 22nd November, 2003 as against 1600 cases reported last year.

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 adapted 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.

