

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4111

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

COMBATING DISEASES

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by emergence of new diseases like AIDS and the return of old diseases like Malaria, Cholera, Dengue, Tuberculosis and Plague ;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to put a check on these diseases; and

(c) the present status thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b)&(c): The steps proposed to be taken and the present status in regard to each of these diseases is as follows:

**AIDS**

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components: -

- # Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- # Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).
- #Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- # Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- # Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme management.

**MALARIA, DENGUE AND OTHER VECTOR BORNE DISEASES**

A centrally sponsored national Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is operative throughout the country for prevention and control of Malaria, Dengue, and other Vector Borne Diseases. The various steps taken to check these diseases are as follows:

- # Early diagnosis, proper treatment and appropriate case management.
- # Integrated vector control including selective indoor residual insecticidal spraying and introduction of larvivorous fishes;
- # Epidemic preparedness & early response;
- # Information, Education and Communication for generating awareness about prevention and control of malaria;
- #Capacity building by training of health care workers, NGOs in prevention and control activities of malaria;
- # Development of appropriate information system for active case detection and reporting.

**CHOLERA**

- # The laboratory based surveillance for Cholera is undertaken throughout the year in collaboration with Infectious Disease Hospital, Delhi.
- # Regular monitoring of Cholera is done through active case detection and treatment of the cases.
- # Necessary quality control measures including water quality monitoring is undertaken with active participation of Government of NCT of Delhi.

## TUBERCULOSIS

- # The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme is being implemented since 1997 with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases.
- # Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been strengthened to help in detection and cure of infectious cases.
- # Anti-tuberculosis drugs are provided free of cost under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment.
- # To make the programme more accessible and supplement the government efforts, emphasis is given to involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.
- # Presently more than one billion population in 564 districts has been covered who have reported a cure rate of more than 85%. The entire country will be covered under this strategy during the current year 2005.

## PLAGUE

- # National Surveillance Programme for communicable diseases including Plague have been launched covering 101 districts.
- # The Central Plague Laboratory with facilities for safe culture, isolation, fluorescent etc. has been established.
- # For development of trained man-power regular training courses are conducted for different medical and para-medical personnel.
- # Inter-state Plague coordination committee meetings are being held to assess the current status, availability of diagnosis facilities, and review of uniform surveillance system are being held annually.
- # To create awareness about Plague, a technical document (CD-Alert) has been developed and circulated to all states.