

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
A KILLER VIRUS ON RAMPAGE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a killer virus is on the rampage in the country particularly in the area of Chandipura (A.P.) appearing in the `Times of India` dated September 18, 2004 ;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof ;
- (c) the number of children who lost their lives due to this virus upto now State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has appointed any investigating agency to look into the matter ; and
- (e) if so, the details of the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c): The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has reported that no such killer virus is on the rampage during the current year. However, Andhra Pradesh witnessed cases of acute encephalitis in children during the period between June, 2003 & September, 2003, in Maharashtra during the period between June, 2003 and August, 2003 and in Gujarat in 2004. 183 children lost their lives in A.P., 115 in Maharashtra and 15 in Gujarat.
 - (d): Directorate General of Health Services constituted multi disciplinary teams to investigate the cases in Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra in July, 2003 and in Vadodra, Gujarat in July, 2004.
 - (e): The clinical, epidemiological, entomological and serological investigations suggested that the outbreaks were due to acute viral encephalitis.
- Guidelines on public health measures have been sent to district and state health authorities by the Central Government.