

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1206
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
LEUKEMIA AMONG CHILDREN
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that as per the study conducted by the Institute of Health and Medical Research , the children living near commercial garages and petrol pumps are four times more prone to Leukaemia ;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the efforts undertaken by the Government for general public awareness about the diseases like leukemia ; and
- (d) the details of the schemes formulated by the Government to prevent such fatal diseases amongst children ?

Answer

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

(a): According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a study from France found increased risk of Leukaemia in workers exposed to Benzene. As per International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France, Diesel engine exhaust is probably carcinogenic to humans and gasoline engine exhaust is possibly carcinogenic to humans. As per World Health Organisation the main environmental risk factor for Leukaemia is ionizing radiation.

(b)to(d): This Ministry primarily focuses on early detection, prevention, creating awareness and also in assisting in augmentation of cancer treatment facilities in the country. The NCCP has been revised with a total outlay of Rs.266.00 crores during the 10th Five Year Plan. Under the revised schemes more emphasis is laid on prevention through health education and awareness, early detection of cancer under the District Cancer Control Programme, augmentation of cancer treatment facilities under the Regional Cancer Centre and Oncology Wing Development schemes.