

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1471  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007  
PRIVATISATION OF SERVICES IN HOSPITALS  
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to augment the production of gambusia and larvae fish to check malaria in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of these fishes?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir, Fish has been widely used in public health. One of the most successful and widely used biological control agent against mosquito larvae is the top water minnow or mosquito fish *Gambusia affinis*. Fish other than *Gambusia* which has received the most attention as a mosquito control agent is *Poecilia reticulata*, the common guppy.

Fish has been extensively used the mosquito control in the urban malaria scheme under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. In recent years, States have extended the use of fishes *Gambusia* and *Poecilia* to rural areas in suitable breeding places as a supplementary measure for vector control. All the States have been advised to upscale the use of fish as biological control method.

(c) The Govt. of India has taken following steps to increase the production of these fishes.

- # Development of larvivorous fish hatcheries at District/Block level.
- # Contruction of small hatcheries at village level so that they can be introduced in different water bodies in the village.
- # Detailed guidelines and advisories for up scaling of larvivorous fish have been sent to all the States.
- # Ministry of Agriculture (Fishries Division) and Ministry of Rural Development (Panchayati Raj Institutions) have also been involved for production of these fishes.