

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:752

ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008

CONTROL OF MENINGITIS

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

- (a) whether the cases of meningitis resurface in the country every year despite the efforts of the Government to control it;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of the cases detected in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the measures taken earlier in the light of the resurfacing of such cases time and again in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Meningitis shows a well-marked trend of seasonal variation and outbreaks of the disease occur more frequently in dry and cold months of the year. The incidence is more noticeable in the low socio-economic groups living under poor hygienic conditions.

The number of cases of meningococcal meningitis reported in the country during the period from 2005 to 2007 and also during the current year are indicated below:

Year Total no. of cases

2005 8367

2006 3438

2007 5067

2008 (till July'08) 2027

(c) & (d) National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) provides technical and diagnostic support to the States to combat meningitis by sending Rapid Response Teams to the affected areas as and when required. A technical document "CD Alert on Meningococcal Diseases" has been circulated to all the affected states. Under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, a decentralized State-based surveillance project, Meningitis alongwith the other diseases is under continuous surveillance for early detection and prompt action.

Following the reporting of occurrence of meningococcal meningitis in Delhi and surrounding areas in NCR region, the situation has been reviewed by an expert group comprising officials from NICD, ICMR, Government hospitals of Delhi etc. and necessary measures to combat the disease have been taken by the State Government.