

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:831
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
SPREAD OF HAND FOOT MOUTH DISEASE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is vulnerable to viral attack and Hand-Foot and Mouth disease (HFMD);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons died due to these diseases during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the occurrence of such disease; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) As informed by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), the country apparently does not have any evidence of epidemic of Hand-foot and mouth disease (HFMD), though sporadic cases due to Enterovirus (EV)-71 infection have been reported.

81 cases of papulovesicular lesions on skin and oral mucosa of children were reported in Calicut, Kerala during the period from October –November 2003. The cases, on the basis serological analysis, were confirmed to be caused by EV-71, which has been associated with the epidemics of HFMD. No case of HFMD has been reported from any other part of the country.

(c) & (d) In view of the recent outbreaks of HFMD in Asia-Pacific region, the Government has formulated an action plan in preparedness, the salient features of which are, as follows:

To develop case definition (based on CDC/WHO and China's case definition).

To develop guidelines for case management and sample collection.

Circular to major hospitals for early case detection and reporting.

NICD, Delhi and Enterovirus Research centre (ERC), Mumbai to function as referral labs for diagnosis and viral isolation.

Development of Prototype IEC material.