

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
RISE IN CASES OF MENINGITIS
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of rise in the cases of meningitis in various States;
- (b) if so, the names of such States;
- (c) the reasons for the spread of the disease; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Meningitis, including Meningococcal Meningitis, is an outbreak-prone disease. As per the data available, increase or decrease in the cases of Meningitis is variable across the States of the country. While in states like Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal, the number of reported cases of Meningitis has increased in 2008 as compared to that of 2007, the reported cases have registered a decline in States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during the same period. A state-wise statement on the number of cases reported during 2007 and 2008 is given at Annexure.

(c) Meningococcal meningitis has a well established seasonal and cyclical trend and occurs more frequently in dry and cold seasons of the year. Overcrowding and low socioeconomic status are important predisposing factors. The disease spreads from person to person through air and also by direct person to person contact.

(d) In the wake of reporting of outbreaks of the disease in different parts of the country, central rapid response teams were sent to the affected areas to have an on-site assessment of the disease and to carry out investigation and help the

state health authorities in instituting the control measures. A regular surveillance system has been put in place in the affected states/districts.

Technical publication material on the disease `CD Alert` has been prepared and widely disseminated for use of the health care workers in the affected states.