

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:864

ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010

REPORT ON MALARIA

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

- (a) whether as per a new study published in British medical journal 'The Lancet', malaria actually claims more than two lakh lives every year before the age of seventy in India, which is thirteen times more than estimated earlier;
- (b) if so, the details and the facts in this regard;
- (c) the reasons for such high prevalence of death rate owing to malaria in the country; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government to check the menace of malaria particularly in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The estimated number of deaths due to malaria reported in a British medical journal "The Lancet" is not acceptable according to experts from the World Health Organisation, Indian Council of Medical Research and Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. The study published in the journal suffers from several methodological deficiencies.

(d): Malaria, a vector-borne disease, continues to be public health problem in India and is being addressed through established prevention and control strategies under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP). Under the NVBDCP, special attention is being given to high malaria endemic areas, particularly in the North-Eastern and Eastern parts of the country. Government of India provides commodity support in the form of Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (LLINs), DDT, Anti malaria drugs, rapid malaria diagnostic kits etc. besides supporting States and UTs with additional technical manpower in high endemic districts. The programme is, however, implemented by State/UT governments under overall umbrella of National Rural Health Mission.