

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011

MALARIA CASES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of some recent studies which suggest that malaria cases in India are highly under estimated and there are more number of malaria deaths than the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facts in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for proper identification/ detection of malaria cases and their treatment;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to restructure the system of public health services and form specific/special cadre of medical and paramedical health professionals at district, State and national level in order to effectively control the rising cases of victor-borne diseases including malaria and other diseases in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDHYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): As per the study published in British medical journal 'the Lancet' in October, 2010, the estimated number of deaths due to malaria in India was 2,05,000 which is much higher than WHO estimate.

The estimation of malaria deaths reported in 'the Lancet' is not acceptable according to experts from the World Health Organization, 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.

(c): Government of India is implementing an integrated National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) under the overarching umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases including malaria. The main strategy for prevention and control of malaria focuses on early case detection and complete treatment of cases, integrated vector control, and behavior change communication. The programme is implemented through the State/UT Governments. For ensuring early diagnosis and prompt treatment of Plasmodium falciparum (Pf) malaria, Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) and Artemisinin Based Combination Therapy (ACTs) are used by ASHAs and other community workers.

(d) & (e): The NVBDCP has been integrated into the framework of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for better coordination and effective implementation of prevention and control measures against vector-borne diseases including malaria. This has resulted in higher visibility, better implementation and more efficient use of resources for prevention and control measures.