

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3100

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011

CASES OF HEPATITIS INFECTIONS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a few recent studies in the country which state that a large number of Indians suffer from various types of Hepatitis infections which cause certain other diseases such as cirrhosis and liver cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the strategies adopted and the programmes run by the Government for the control and treatment of the cases of Hepatitis;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch an awareness and vaccination drive against Hepatitis infections and provide free treatment to the people living with these infections; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) There are very few studies and no conclusive evidence on actual prevalence of Hepatitis. There are five known viruses that affect the liver: Hepatitis A, B, C, D & E. Hepatitis A & E are transmitted via fecal-oral route, while the rest are transmitted via blood-to-blood contact.
- (b) Number of cases of Viral Hepatitis reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise, is given at Annexure.
- (c) to (e) Hepatitis B vaccine has been incorporated in Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 15 States/UTs.

Since April 2005, the Government has also introduced auto disabled (AD) syringes for all vaccinations under the UIP in all states. AD syringes are single use, self-locking syringes that cannot be used more than once. This prevents misuse and contamination/cross infection through repeated use of unsterile injection/equipment. Routine screening of blood units for Hepatitis B & C has been made mandatory to detect and discard contaminated blood units.

Since the main cause of Hepatitis A & E is consumption of contaminated water, different programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India are being run through state governments/local bodies to ensure supply of safe drinking water. These programme include:

- (i) National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP),
- (ii) Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme,
- (iii) Jalmani Programme.