

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:427

ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011

NEW CASES OF LEPROSY

Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government had set any target to eliminate leprosy cases in the country by 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken note of a recent report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which states that India contributed 65 per cent of all new cases of leprosy globally between April, 2010 and March, 2011;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard indicating the new cases of leprosy reported during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the reasons for the high prevalence and recurrence rate of the disease in the country alongwith the funds allocated and spent for eradication of the disease during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken and the plan chalked out by the Government to launch a special leprosy eradication drive during the Twelfth Five Year Plan Period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 427 FOR 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2011

(a) to (e): The Government of India, in its National Health Policy 2002, envisaged the goal of leprosy elimination (i.e. less than one case per 10,000 population) to be achieved by 2005. This goal was achieved at the national level in December, 2005.

In the latest report of WHO published in August, 2010, India accounted for about 55% of new leprosy cases in the world (133,717 cases in India out of total 244,796 leprosy cases globally). State/UT-wise new cases of leprosy reported during the last 3 years and current year upto June, 2011, are given in Annexure-I.

The prevalence of leprosy has been decreasing in India over the years. From a level of 42 cases per 100,000 population in 2001-02, it has come down to 7 cases per 100,000 population in 2010-11. However, considering very long incubation period of the disease, India will continue to have new leprosy cases for many more years to come.

State/UT-wise funds released and expenditure reported for leprosy elimination activities are given in Annexure-II.

Government of India continues to accord high priority to elimination of leprosy within the overall framework of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Leprosy diagnosis and treatment services have been integrated into general healthcare system, and village level functionaries like ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers are involved in bringing leprosy suspects to the health care system for their detection and proper treatment. The Government of India is advocating a district-specific approach for elimination of leprosy, which will be further strengthened during the 12th Plan period.