

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:870

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

CASES OF MENINGITIS

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

- (a) whether cases of meningitis and deaths therefrom among the children are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported, children rendered handicapped and those died of the said disease during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action plan drawn/proposed by the Government to tackle the rising cases of meningitis and also provide special assistance to the children, rendered physically and mentally handicapped by the disease;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to declare meningitis a national Contagious disease; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Meningitis is an outbreak prone disease. Reported cases of meningitis have not shown any definite trend whereas reported deaths due to meningitis show a declining trend during past three years. State wise cases and deaths due to Meningococcal meningitis reported during 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (till date) are enclosed as annexure.

Child specific data on cases of Meningitis and deaths there from are not available.

(c) As per the situation, Rapid Response Teams are sent to affected areas immediately to assess the situation, to carry out investigations and to help State Health Authorities in instituting control measures. A regular surveillance system has been put in place in the states/districts.

Information regarding Meningococcal Meningitis and other communicable diseases is regularly published in the monthly newsletter 'CD Alert' of national Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) for awareness of health care workers.

There is no special scheme for assistance to the children rendered physically and mentally handicapped by Meningitis.

(d) & (e) Meningitis is an outbreak prone disease and is covered under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP).