

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:813
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has a high proportion of morbidity with a large number of people suffering from Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the prevalent tropical diseases in the country;
- (c) the reasons for high prevalence of these tropical diseases in the country;
- (d) the estimated number of cases and deaths due to these diseases reported during each of the last three years in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to eliminate NTDs and develop new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Important Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in India include Dengue, Trachoma, Leprosy, Guinea Worm, Lymphatic Filariasis, Soil-transmitted Helminthiases., rabies and kalazar.
- (c): the prevalence of these vector borne tropical diseases depends on climatic conditions, socio-economic conditions, inappropriate health seeking behavior, migration of population as well as emerging drug and insecticide resistance.
- (d):The available details of the estimated number of cases and deaths due to these diseases in the country are annexed.
- (e):Under the following national programmes, strategies are being implemented to control or eliminate these diseases:
 - (i) National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme implements the strategies for the control of Dengue and elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis.
 - (ii) National Leprosy Elimination Programme is being implemented in the country since 1983 and has achieved the elimination of leprosy at national level in December, 2005. Focus is now to achieve elimination of leprosy at district level.
 - (iii) Under National Programme for Control of Blindness, services are provided for the control of Trachoma.
 - (iv) Guinea Worm disease has already been eradicated from the country.
 - (v) Under School Health Programme, services are provided for the Prevention of Soil-transmitted Helminthiases.

Besides, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) promotes research in different NTDs through its extramural and intramural research through its diseases specific institutes which involves molecular and genetic study on the pathogens and vector, development of new diagnostics and interventions. The outcome of successful research projects are intimated to the respective National Programmes.