

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2527  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009  
ERADICATION OF LEPROSY  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government has claimed that leprosy has been eradicated from the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the leprosy is likely to be eradicated from the country;
- (c) the number of leprosy patients in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the spread of the disease?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Government has not claimed that leprosy has been eradicated from the country. However, the Govt. has declared the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem (i.e. achieving prevalence rate of less than one case per 10,000 populations) at National level in the month of December 2005.

Eradication would mean the complete absence of the disease and the organism that causes it throughout the world. At present, we lack the tools both to protect people from developing leprosy and to diagnose & treat the disease in its subclinical form and for this reason it is not possible to fix any timeline for eradication of leprosy from the country.

(c) There were 86,331 leprosy patients/cases on record as on 31st March 2009 in the country. The State wise number of leprosy cases is enclosed at Annexure.

(d) Govt. of India is implementing National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) in the country which includes treatment of cases and check the spread of the disease by taking the following steps-

- (i) Providing integrated leprosy services through General Health Care System.
- (ii) Availability of leprosy diagnosis and treatment services from all PHCs/Government dispensaries and hospitals free of cost.
- (iii) Training in leprosy to all General Health Services functionaries.
- (iv) Intensified Information, Education & Communication (IEC) with focus on inter personnel communication for increasing awareness about the disease among the masses.
- (v) Monitoring and supervision of programme activities.