

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1827

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012

POLIO FREE INDIA

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

- (a) whether despite the World Health Organization (WHO) acclaiming India as polio free nation, stray cases of polio have been reported;
- (b) if so, the performance of the States in bringing down polio cases during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of children given oral polio vaccines and immunised, the vaccinators and supervisors participated in the National Pulse Polio Immunisation programme and expenditure incurred in the country during the last three years, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to substitute Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) by Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) through injection following reported cases of polio after oral vaccination in some States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the further efforts being taken by the Government to keep India polio free in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a): No, there have been no stray cases of wild polio reported in the country after the last case reported from West Bengal with date of onset of paralysis as 13th January 2011.
- (b): The state/UT wise wild polio cases during the last three years and the current year is annexed at annexure A.
- (c) The state/UT wise number of children vaccinated and number of vaccinators and supervisors who participated during the last three years in the National Pulse Polio Immunization Programme are at Annexure B. State/UT wise expenditure incurred during last three years is at annexure C
- (d): At present Oral polio vaccine is being provided to children as per the recommendations of Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) for polio consisting of National and International Experts. The IEAG for polio makes recommendation based on epidemiological situation of polio and introduction of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) will be guided by the same expert group.
- (e): As per the recommendation of the IEAG on polio, Government is making the following efforts to keep India polio free.
 - (i) To maintain population immunity two nationwide polio campaigns (National Immunization Days) followed by four large scale polio campaigns in the high risk states/high risk population like mobile and migrant population (Sub National Immunization Days) will continue so that no wild polio virus could establish circulation.
 - (ii) Continuous vaccination is being carried out in Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal border to mitigate risk from importation of polio.
 - (iii) Sensitive Surveillance to detect any polio cases.
 - (iv) Environmental Surveillance of sewage samples is being carried out for detection of the polio virus at Mumbai, Delhi, Patna and Kolkata.
 - (v) Emergency preparedness and response plan developed to respond to any wild polio virus case.
 - (vi) multipronged strategy to improve sanitation, hygiene, availability of clean water and control of diarrhoea in 107 high risk blocks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which were reporting maximum number of polio cases in the country.