

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2962

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) have excluded India from the list of polio affected countries;
- (b) if so, whether the Government will continue with polio eradication Programme or proposes to stop polio vaccination programme in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to get the status of polio free nations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has issued directions to State Governments to launch intensive surveillance programme in districts where polio cases have resurfaced; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, World Health Organization (WHO) has excluded India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.
- (b): Government will continue Polio Eradication Programme to mitigate risk of Polio virus importation.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Government has formulated action plan to get the status of polio free nations as per the recommendation of India Expert Advisory Group on Polio (IEAG). The details are as under:
 - (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.
- (e)&(f): Yes, Government has issued directions to State governments for intensive surveillance and Emergency preparedness and response plan to respond to any wild polio virus case.