

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3762
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
DEATHS DUE TO SNAKE ANIMAL INSECTS BITES
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether a number of people die due to snake bites, animal bites and insects bites, particularly in rural areas across the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any accurate data in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to spread awareness about precautions against snake bites, animal bites and insects bites and make available prompt treatment facilities in hospitals/ health centres, particularly in rural areas?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d): Information on State/UT-wise reported deaths due to snakebite and rabies during the year 2011 is enclosed at Annexure.
- (e): To prevent human deaths due to rabies a pilot project was carried out in the 11th Five Year Plan in five cities namely Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Pune, Madurai and Delhi. Under the pilot project, Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities were carried out to enhance awareness in the general community regarding timely and appropriate post exposure treatment. Medical and Paramedical personnel were trained in providing timely and appropriate animal bite management.

Health is a 'State' subject. Therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to ensure the availability of anti-rabies vaccine and anti-snake venom serum in the health care facilities. However, under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are provided to states for procurement of drugs including anti-rabies vaccine/anti-snake serum to make for any shortages and to strengthen primary health care institutions to provide health care facilities including medical assistance to victims of snake/animal bite.