

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3770
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Pangi Shri Jayaram

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the high prevalence of the soil-borne and other infectious diseases among the school going children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to prevent such diseases among the school going children;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for school health programme aimed at periodical health examination of school children and provided funds for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith their status of implementation in various States, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per data available from States, 13.60 % of total students screened across states are diagnosed with infectious diseases. Of these, 4 % is upper respiratory tract infection, 7.37% of ear infection, 11% other infections, 29 % dental infections, 9 % skin infections and 39.99 % are suffering from worm infestation.

It is however difficult to indicate how much of these worm infestations are soil borne as there are multiple sources and etiology of this infection.

(c): The School Health Program (SHP) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) specifically focusing on school going children is already in place.

The School Health Programme covers students enrolled in Government and Government aided Schools identifying the vulnerability of these students in terms of health status.

The National School Health Programme includes biannual health service provision through screening, health care and referral for disease, deficiency and disability.

Under School health programme deworming is undertaken by biannual provisions of Albendazole to address the problem of worm infestations.

(d) and (e) Yes the Government of India has formulated National Guidelines for School Health Programme in 2006, under which biannual health screening for disease, deficiency and disability is envisaged. The State Governments run the School Health Programmes.

In addition to State Government budgets, States request for funds under NRHM for the School Health Programme which is projected in their annual PIPs. Allocation of funds is made after appraisals of the proposals.

School Health Programme is implemented by the States and data on status of implementation is not maintained centrally.