

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7019
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
BACTERIAL INFECTION ANTHRAX
Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh;Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent incident of death of an animal reportedly due to bacterial infection anthrax at the National Zoological Park in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the immediate steps taken by the Government in the wake of the said incident;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the likelihood of spread of anthrax in human beings also; and
- (e) if so, the preventive measures taken/proposed by the Government to check the spread of the above bacterial infection?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

- (a) & (b): One Rhinoceros aged 3 years 5 months and 16 days was found dead all of a sudden on 28.04.2012. It was suspected to have died of anthrax but laboratory investigations at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, found the samples to be negative for *Bacillus anthracis* (Anthrax bacilli).
- (c) Steps were taken to disinfect the environment by sanitization of animal holding facility with disinfectants to prevent spread of the bacteria as per the guidelines under supervision of Veterinary Officer, sterilization of animal house iron bars and walls, prophylactic treatment to other Rhinoceroses, disposal of the carcass of the dead animal by burning, burial of burnt ash of the animal and prophylactic treatment to staff members who came in direct contact of the dead animal.
- (d) & (e): Yes. More commonly the infection spreads by the spores from the contaminated environment. Steps have been taken to decontaminate the environment. As it was not confirmed to be a case of anthrax by laboratory investigations, no further preventive measures are required.