

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4390
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
ANIMAL INFECTED DISEASES
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a global study conducted by certain International Institutions which has placed India among the top geographical hotspots for zoonotic diseases;
- (b) if so, the details along with the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study/assessment to ascertain the impact of infectious diseases originating from animals and transmitted to humans;
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to protect people from animal infected diseases and also for the treatment of affected people?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes. A report entitled "Mapping of Poverty and Likely Zoonoses Hotspots" had been brought out in July 2012 by jointly three organizations: International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) (Kenya and Vietnam offices), Institute of Zoology (United Kingdom) and Hanoi School of Public Health (Vietnam). It was a purely "desk" study, using computer simulation and mapping software, carried out over a period of four months (January to April 2012) using information from literature. The data are mostly old, incomplete and therefore questionable. There was no primary data collection.

(c) to (e) Yes. The ICMR, through its network of institutes carries out research on zoonoses. Some of these are Bovine Tuberculosis, by the National JALMA Institute of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases (Agra); studies on H1N1 and H5N1 Influenza, by National Institute of Virology (Pune) and research on Leptospirosis, by Regional Medical Research Centre (Port Blair).

As reported by NCDC, the following measures have been taken:

- (1) The Ministry has implemented Integrated Diseases Surveillance Programme (IDSP) across the country for assessment, surveillance, outbreak investigations and response for infectious diseases including zoonotic diseases.
- (2) Intersectoral coordination has been developed through Standing Committee on Zoonoses for effective prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.
- (3) The National Centre for Diseases Control provides laboratory support for surveillance of zoonotic diseases.
- (4) Guidelines for prevention and control of various zoonotic diseases (Rabies and animal bite management, Leptospirosis, Anthrax, JE, Plague) and CD Alert issues on various zoonotic diseases have been prepared and widely disseminated.
- (5) Regular training courses are conducted for development of trained manpower in various aspects of zoonotic diseases viz. diagnosis, treatment and prevention and control. Some of the courses include training of both medical and veterinary professionals to have better understanding of zoonosis and develop intersectoral coordination which is necessary for prevention and control of zoonoses.