

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2385

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012

HEALTH SCREENING OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a recent global warning of the World Health Organisation against the risk of importing a new respiratory virus belonging to the same family as the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the health units currently functional at various airports, ports and land Borders for the health screening of international passengers in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up health surveillance units at all the airports, ports and land borders in a time bound manner in accordance with the WHO requirement under the international health regulations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with progress made in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, World Health Organization has informed member countries about novel Corona virus. Globally there are nine cases with five deaths (as on 30th November, 2012).

The current understanding of this novel virus is that it does not appear to transmit easily between people. World Health Organization has advised against screening at point of entry, travel or trade restrictions. However, the situation has been reviewed by the Government and the Integrated Disease surveillance Project (IDSP) has been doing surveillance for severe acute respiratory illness.

(c) There are 21 Port of Entries (POEs), i.e Port Health Organization (10) and Airport Health Organizations (10) and Land Border Health Unit (1) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases.

(d)&(e) The Government has prepared a plan of action for 23 new Port of Entries with Health Units for strengthening surveillance.