

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009  
SPREAD OF WATER BORNE DISEASES IN KERALA  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has assessed the impact of the wide spread water borne diseases throughout the parts of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The water-borne diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid Fever are mainly caused by consumption of contaminated water. As per the information available, the number of such cases reported during the years 2006-08 in the State of Kerala are given below:

Diseases 2006 2007 2008#

Cholera 12 5 7

Acute 475510 450107 364147  
Diarrhoeal  
Diseases

Viral Hepatitis 7018 6768 10030

Typhoid Fever 6219 4261 5920

# Figures are provisional.

Health is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to make available safe and clean drinking water to the inhabitants of the State. However, the State is advised to take the following measures.

# Imparting of health education to the community members regarding use of safe water, feeding practices, proper disposal of excreta, avoidance of food from outside.

# Chlorination of tankers supplying water.

# Supply of chlorine tablets and ORS packets.

# Supplementation with zinc for children who have already suffered from diarrhoea.

# Regular testing of water samples.

The National Institute of Communicable Diseases(NICD) is the Central Agency for Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) including Kerala. It is a decentralized state-based disease surveillance programme being implemented in the country and intends to detect early warning signals of impending outbreaks including water-borne diseases.

IDSP provides technical guidelines for prevention and control of communicable diseases and also participates in outbreak

investigations.