

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
SHORTAGE OF MASKS FOR SWINE FLU
Deora Shri Milind Murl

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

- (a) whether there is any shortage of special N-95 and common masks in some parts of the country at a time when the cases of Swine Flu are increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken or being taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of such masks in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): There was no report of shortage of N-95 and the Triple layer surgical mask in the Public Health System and the identified private hospitals managing Pandemic Influenza A H1N1.

(c) Guidelines on use of mask were provided to the State Governments and put on the dedicated web page of Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (<http://www.mohfw-h1n1.nic.in>).

States were asked to procure the masks during the preparedness stage. A central stockpile is maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Deterrent stocks of Personal Protective Equipments, N-95 and Triple layer masks were supplied to the State Governments. The details are at Annexure-I Any State requesting for emergency supply is provided N-95 masks and triple layer masks from the central stock.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are in the process of concluding the Rate Contract for N-95 and Triple Layer Masks for use by the State Governments.