

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4351  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013  
SOIL BORNE INFECTIONS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

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

- (a) whether there is high prevalence of soil borne and other infectious diseases among the school going children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to train teachers and inspection staff at schools about these preventive measures for such infectious diseases, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether deworming programmes are also taken up as and when required in such schools on a regular basis; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Soil Transmitted Helminthiases (STH) are the most important infections among the school going children in the country. There is no regular surveillance of such infections. Thus State/UTs wise status is not available. However as per WHO progress report on Soil Transmitted Helminthiases, 42 % of the children in South East Asia region are in need of deworming treatment and out of this 64% of children are from India.

(c) to (e) Under the school health programme, deworming tablets are provided to all the children bi annually. Beside this, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also launched National Iron plus strategy for control of iron deficiency anaemia where all the children from 6 months to 18 years of age are provided weekly supplementation of iron and folic acid. Teacher and Anganwadi workers are also trained to supervise administration of the medicines and refer sick children.