

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:898
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
RESEARCH ON FLU
Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha

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

- (a) whether as per a new research of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States of America (USA), climate change is likely to prompt more severe flu seasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to meet the situation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b) : Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is not aware of any research done by Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States of America (USA) in this regard. However, it has reported that a research has been done at Arizona State University published on January 28, 2013 in USA, climate change may be a factor in the flu seasons early timing. Temperature and humidity also play a role in outbreaks. According to the study authors, climatic conditions affect the transmission and severity of influenza.

(c): Directorate General of Health Services has reported that under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP), there is a network of 12 established laboratories. All the laboratories are functional and are testing samples in influenza and are also involved in carrying out influenza surveillance through 3 sentinel sites attached to each laboratory. The activities are being monitored by the IDSP and all activities in the States are being coordinated by the State Surveillance Officers.