

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:136

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

POLIO CASES

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has removed India from the list of polio- endemic countries;
- (b) if so, the number of polio cases reported despite regular administration of polio drops during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the Pulse Polio Programme in view of the said reported cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the amount allocated for polio eradication programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Year-wise and State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure rational utilisation of funds and to check recurrence of polio cases in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes. World Health Organization (WHO) has removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.
- (b) The number of Polio cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ Union Territories (UT) wise is at Annexure I.
- (c) & (d) Yes. The Polio eradication programme is reviewed at regular intervals by India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on Polio consisting of National and International experts on Polio. The IEAG reviews the status of Polio eradication programme in the country and based on the current situation, recommends next steps for achieving the goal of Polio eradication.
- (e) The amount allocated for Polio eradication programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Year-wise and State-wise is at Annexure II.
- (f) To ensure rational utilization of funds, the funds for meeting operational cost of the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme to States/ Union Territories (UTs) are released on the basis of approved norms. Further grant-in-aid is released only after receiving pending utilization certificates of the preceding year. Besides, the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) is procured centrally and released to States/UTs as per the requirement under Pulse Polio rounds. Government has formulated action plan to get the status of Polio free nation as per the recommendation of India Expert Advisory Group on Polio (IEAG). The details are as under:
 - (i) To maintain population immunity, two nationwide polio campaigns (National Immunization Days) followed by four large scale polio campaigns in the high risk states/high risk population like mobile and migrant population (Sub National Immunization Days) will continue so that no wild polio virus could establish circulation.
 - (ii) Continuous vaccination is being carried out in Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal border to mitigate risk from importation of polio.
 - (iii) Sensitive Surveillance to detect any polio cases.
 - (iv) Environmental Surveillance of sewage samples is being carried out for detection of the polio virus at Mumbai, Delhi, Patna and Kolkata.
 - (v) Emergency preparedness and response plan developed to respond to any wild polio virus case.
 - (vi) multipronged strategy to improve sanitation, hygiene, availability of clean water and control of diarrhoea in 107 high risk blocks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which were reporting maximum number of polio cases in the country.