

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013

WHO WARNING AGAINST NEW GLOBAL RESPIRATORY VIRUS

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a global warning against the spread of a new Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) like respiratory virus across the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the existing health surveillance units at various airports, ports and land borders for the surveillance against the spread of SARS like virus in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for strengthening health surveillance at various points of entry as per WHO guidelines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) No. However, World Health Organization has alerted member states on 25th September, 2012 regarding emergence of a novel coronavirus causing Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (SARS). To date WHO has been informed of a total of 13 confirmed cases of human infection with Novel Coronavirus, including 7 deaths. Cases have been reported from Qatar (2 cases, no deaths), Saudi Arabia (6 cases, 4 deaths), Jordan (2 cases, 2 deaths) and United Kingdom (3 cases, 1 death). Government has reviewed the situation.
- (c) Country has designated health units at 15 International entry points. Details are at annexure.
- (d) to (e) WHO has not advised special screening at points of entry with regard to this event nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.