

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1486
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013
CELIAC DISEASE
Ajay Kumar SHRI

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

- (a) whether the number of people including children suffering from celiac disease is on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) the estimated number of people suffering from celiac disease in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make gluten-free diet at affordable rates which is useful for celiac patients and spread public awareness in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed by the Government for proper diagnosis and treatment facilities for celiac disease across the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) &(b): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that they are aware of reports on Celiac disease caused by ingestion of gluten containing food items in susceptible children and adults from various parts of the country. ICMR has also informed that Celiac disease is caused by an allergy to a protein (Gluten) in wheat, barley and rye. It affects mainly those with a certain kind of genetic background. In the absence of trend data, it is difficult to say whether it is increasing or not. Further, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has informed that Celiac disease data is not monitored at the national level and higher prevalence of this disease has not been reported by any State/UT to this Ministry.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal in this Ministry at the moment.

(e): Health is a state subject. The diagnosis and management of the celiac disease is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Gastro-enterology and other relevant Departments of Central Government provide facility for diagnosis and management of Celiac Disease. ICMR has recognized the clinical and public health relevance of Celiac disease and has identified it as an area of research