

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2513
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009
DEATHS DUE TO DIARRHOEA
Deora Shri Milind Murl

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

- (a) whether a new report released by the United Nations Organisation (UNO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed that of the 38 per cent deaths that took place in South Asia in 2004, India accounted for the highest number of deaths due to Diarrhoea;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a): Yes.

(b): Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are major factors contributing to occurrence of diarrheal diseases. The provision of safe drinking water and sanitation for the population is primarily the responsibility of State Government and the local authorities. The measures taken by the State Governments and the local authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments and Union Territories by providing funds for supply of safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

The States and local authorities are also assisted for early detection and response to epidemic-prone diseases including diarrhea under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) to minimize morbidity and mortality.

(c): The same UNICEF report states that mortality from diarrhea has declined over the past two decades from an estimated 5 million deaths among children under 5 to 1.5 million deaths in 2004. However, the measures being taken by the State Governments and local authorities for provision of safe drinking water and sanitation will continue to sustain and augment their benefits.