

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
ARTHRITIS AMONG CHILDREN
Swaraj Smt. Sushma

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

- (a) whether there is rise in the cases of arthritis in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the facilities being made available in the hospitals for treatment of the disease at affordable cost;
- (d) whether the cases of arthritis among the children below sixteen years of age have also been reported in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the further measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 432 FOR 18TH DECEMBER,2009

(a)&(b): There are no time trend studies available in the Ministry to confirm or refute a rising trend in the prevalence or incidence of arthritis in India. However, as per the WHO technical report series 919 on the Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions (2003), the overall prevalence of Rheumatoid Arthritis is about 0.55%. Prevalence of Osteoarthritis of the knee is 5.5 %.

(c) Arthritis cases are diagnosed and treated in Community Health Centres (CHCs), district hospitals, Medical Colleges, AYUSH Hospitals and other tertiary health care institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh etc. The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) envisage availability of a physician, paediatrician and AYUSH specialist at CHC and in addition to this, an orthopaedician, physiotherapist at district hospital to manage the cases of arthritis.

(d)&(e): Cases of arthritis have been reported among children below 16 years in India. However, State/UT wise data on arthritis is not maintained.

(f) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), better healthcare facilities are being provided throughout the country with special focus on vulnerable age groups like children, women, old age group and SC/ST population.