

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:873

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

POLIO VIRUS

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

- (a) whether India runs a high risk of importing the polio virus from its neighbouring countries particularly Pakistan and Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has extended/proposes to extend help to its neighbours including Pakistan and Afghanistan to eradicate polio in those countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any meeting has been held recently in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): Yes, India runs a high risk of importing the polio virus from its neighboring countries particularly Pakistan and Afghanistan. As per WHO data source, these are the only two countries worldwide that have persistent transmission due to wild polio virus in year 2013-2014 and remains endemic. Afghanistan has reported 28 polio cases and Pakistan reported 306 polio cases during the year 2014 as per the latest reports.

(c) to (f): Hon'ble Prime Minister in his SAARC Summit speech during 26th-27th November 2014 at Nepal expressed India's support in monitoring and surveillance of polio free countries and provide vaccines where it might reappear. In this regard, Government of India offered its assistance through Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for Technical Missions visiting India from polio endemic countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan to observe National Immunization Days/Sub-National Immunization Days, for polio campaigns.