

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2356
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
POLIO FREE NATION
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has achieved the goal of complete eradication of polio from the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Regional Certification Commission (RCC) of South East Asian Region (SEAR) has issued any certificate declaring India polio free and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total number of children vaccinated till date in the country under Global Polio Eradication initiative, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether certain cases of suspected polio have been reported in the country recently and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of action plan for the continuation of pulse polio vaccination programme in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) & (b): Yes. India has achieved the goal of polio eradication as no polio case has been reported for more than 3 years after last case reported on 13th Jan, 2011
- (c): Yes. The Regional Certification Commission (RCC) on 27th March 2014 issued certificate which states that "The Commission concludes, from the evidence provided by the National Certificate Committees of the 11 Member States, that the transmission of indigenous wild poliovirus has been interrupted in all countries of the Region."
- (d): The total number of children vaccinated during Pulse Polio Programme since inception in 1995 till 2014 are 1202.84 crores. The state/UT wise details is annexed.
- (e): No polio cases have been reported from any part of the country after the last case of polio reported was on 13th Jan, 2011 from West Bengal.
- (f): Due to ongoing wild polio virus transmission in some parts of the world there is a risk of polio importation in the country. As per India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on polio recommendations, pulse polio vaccination is to be continued to maintain high level of population immunity so as to mitigate any risk. Polio vaccination is also given to international travellers travelling between India and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.