

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
DEATHS DUE TO SNAKEBITE
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

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

- (a) The number of persons died due to snakebites in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) Whether anti-snake venoms/ vaccines are available in sufficient quantity at health centres/district hospitals across the country;
- (c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) The steps taken/being taken by the Government for providing adequate anti-snake venoms/ vaccines to the State health departments?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 360 FOR 1st AUGUST, 2014

(a): Information relating to state/UTwise number of deaths due to snakebite, as reported during the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, is given in the Annexure.

(b) to (d): Health is a State subject. Therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure availability of anti-snake venom serum in the health care facilities. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), funds are provided to states for procurement of drugs including anti-snake venom serum.

In addition to manufacturing units of anti-snake venom serum in private sector, Central Research Institute, (CRI) Kasauli and Hafikine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking) manufacture anti-snake venom serum. Requests for additional quantity of anti-snake venom serum are received from State Governments from time to time. The State Governments are: to procure anti-snake venom serum from the manufacturers directly as per their requirements. State Governments have also been requested to convey their requirements of anti-snake venom serum in advance to the Ministry to enable better assessment of demand by Government undertakings.