

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014

DISEASES DUE TO TOXIC ELEMENTS

Mann Shri Bhagwant;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Pathak Smt. Riti;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of high incidence and occurrence of cancer and certain other diseases in the vicinity of industrial areas across the country including Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any study to ascertain the link between prevalence of various diseases including cancer and presence of heavy/toxic metals and other pollutants in the ground water and atmosphere in the country;
- (d) if so, the details along with the findings thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): It is estimated that there are about 11 lakh Cancer cases occurring every year in India (incidence) as per estimates provided by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Estimated number of cancer cases occurring in last three years State/UT-wise including in Punjab is as per Annexure. Data on occurrence of Cancer in the vicinity of industrial areas is not available. An ICMR team had visited several districts of Punjab in September, 2010 to assess, inter-alia, the magnitude of cancer occurrence in the State. The team noted that limited information on cancer occurrence in these areas was available through survey reports and the limited data suggested that the prevalence of cancer in the entire state of Punjab as indicated by the surveys was not higher than other parts of India.

(c) & (d): It is informed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that no specific study has been undertaken by them.

(e): Provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to control diseases caused by drinking of contaminated water. Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the country. Further, 5% of NRDWP funds are earmarked and allocated to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water and with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. Upto 67% of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas. In addition, Government of India provides 3% NRDWP funds on 100% central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc.