

>

Title: Need for National Policy on Medicine for snake bite.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Thank you Sir for giving me the opportunity to speak.

According to the survey of American Society of Tropical Medicine, the number of persons died due to snake bite is 46,000 in India. As per the same survey, more than 2.5 lakh people get injured due to snake bite. This is astonishingly a high figure. According to the World Health Organization, 50 lakh people are injured by snake bites. The bitter fact is that out of those 50 lakhs people, three lakh face disability of a permanent nature in our country. The most affected States are West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Orissa.

Another startling fact is that the number of the poisonous snakes is higher in our country as compared to other countries. As a physician, I know immediately after the snake bite, a person's experience is cardiogenic shock and neuro-toxic shock. But the doctors are not able to treat them properly. It is because most of our Primary Health Centres, Subsidiary Health Centre and even the BPH Centres are located in the interior, distant and remote places in the countryside.

So, considering the loss of life and disability, I would urge the hon. Minister to evolve a national policy on snake bite and make it sure that the anti-venom serum should be available in all these interior hospitals to save the lives and to avoid disability and injury to the people of our country.