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Title: Need to tackle Filariasis.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Even after 63 years of Independence, the problem of Filariasis is continuing. Filariasis is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic worms transmitted through bite of mosquito. It can cause horrible disability and disfigurement in the inflicted people. With vast-changes in life style, diseases like diabetes and cancer has increased. It has been reported in the newspaper that India would have to postpone the goal of lymphatic elimination by two years. Eradicating Filariasis is considered very important next only to Polio. Such is the magnitude of the problem. It is said that over 137 districts of the country are affected by Filariasis. It is astonishing to find that at present 35 crore people in 137 districts in 13 states continue to remain under the lymphatic Filariasis risk. It is the duty of the Health Ministry to create awareness among the poor and general public about the risks associated with Filariasis. I would like to request the Health Minister to generate more and more public awareness about the disease.