

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2743  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**AVAILABILITY OF ANTI-VENOM INJECTIONS**

**2743. SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any policy to provide anti-venom injections/drugs in Primary Health Centres and rural hospitals to treat the patients of insects poisoning and animal bites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of deaths reported due to non-availability of anti-venom and anti-rabies injections, State/ UT-wise during the last three years; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a), (b) & (d): “Public Health and Hospital” is a State subject. Primary responsibility of ensuring availability of anti-venom injections / drugs in Public health facilities including Primary Health Centres and rural hospitals is that of respective State Government.

However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), Central Government provides financial and technical support to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for strengthening their healthcare delivery system. This includes support for free of cost essential drugs including anti-venom and rabies vaccination to those accessing public healthcare facilities upto district hospitals, under the National Free Drugs Service Initiative. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued directions to all the States / UTs to include Anti Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) in the list of essential drugs of the State, procure these drugs locally for supply to health facilities for use to the needy persons and support the same under the National Health Mission.

Government has issued to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to monitor the pharmaceutical firms producing Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) for ensuring regular supply to the States.

Instructions were also issued to the rabies vaccine manufacturers to ensure that the manufacturing of ARV is carried out with full capacity and first preference may be accorded to meet domestic requirement including Government institutional supplies in the country.

(c): The details regarding number of deaths reported due to non-availability of anti-venom and anti-rabies injections is not maintained centrally.