

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3950  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> March, 2021**

**WORLD LEPROSY DAY**

**3950. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has observed World Leprosy day recently, if so, the details thereof along with the theme of the event and initiatives taken by the Government to make the event successful;
- (b) whether the progress in leprosy eradication under National Leprosy Eradication Programme started in the country has been tardy if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the socio-economic conditions of the leprosy patients in the country and if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (e) whether any assistance is being extended including free medicines to leprosy patients considering their pathetic condition of living and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures being taken by the Government to eradicate leprosy from the country?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30<sup>th</sup> January every year, i.e. Mahatma Gandhiji's martyrdom day, as Gandhiji was deeply committed to the cause of leprosy. To commemorate the anti-leprosy day, Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns (SLAC) are being organized since 2017 in order to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons suffering from leprosy. During SLACs, nationwide Gram Sabhas in villages across the country are organised in cooperation and coordination with allied sectors of health department. Appropriate messages from District Magistrates and appeals from Gram Sabha Pramukhs (Heads of Village councils) **to reduce discrimination against persons affected with leprosy** are read out; pledge is taken by all Gram Sabha members to reduce the burden of disease in the community, and felicitation of persons affected with leprosy is done. Village community is encouraged to participate in these meetings, and school children are encouraged to spread awareness about the disease through plays, posters etc.

In the year 2021 too, the States were requested to organise SLACs (Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns) on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The focus of SLACs this year was to make the community aware about the importance of early detection of leprosy followed by complete treatment in order to prevent physical disabilities. SLACs were conducted this year starting from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The following activities were performed by states/ UTs during SLACs:

1. Appeals from Gram Sabha Pramukh / Members of the Panchayati Raj Institutes / Medical officers were made to remove stigma and discrimination against persons affected with leprosy.
2. Street plays were enacted by school children. Other cultural programs were held to disseminate educative messages about leprosy.
3. Question Answer sessions were held involving Frequently Asked Questions.
4. Banners and posters carrying important messages on leprosy were displayed at high visibility places to promote Information, Education and Communication (IEC) about the disease.
5. Leprosy messages were also disseminated through Public Address Systems at some places.
6. Three Short Films (TVCs) on leprosy, developed by Central Leprosy Division, were run through multimedia devices in meetings, and other relevant gatherings held during SLACs.
7. A pledge was taken by community members not to discriminate against persons affected with leprosy.
8. Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation(DPMR) activities were conducted at many places, wherein leprosy affected persons were provided self-care kits, Microcellular rubber(MCR) footwear etc.
9. Besides, in connection with the commemoration of world NTD (Neglected Tropical Diseases) Day, 2021, Qutab Minar was illuminated as a part of global activity. Over 50 monuments across the world were illuminated on NTD day. Leprosy happens to be one of the NTDs in India. Banners related to leprosy were also displayed, along with other NTDs, at the illuminated Qutab Minar.

(b); Under National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP), India has achieved enormous success in leprosy control and elimination. Leprosy elimination, which means Prevalence Rate <1 case/ 10,000 population, was achieved at the National level in 2005. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is constantly taking steps to achieve elimination of Leprosy at the sub-national level, i.e. upto the district level. A consistent progress is being made in this regard as is evident from the table below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>No. of districts with prevalence less than 1</b>
2016- 17	554
2017 - 18	572
2018 - 19	588
2019-20	610

Besides, other indicators related to leprosy are also showing consistent improvement as can be seen from the table below :

Financial Year	PR	Child Cases percentage	G2D%	G2D Per million
2014-15	0.69	9.04	4.61	4.48
2015-16	0.66	8.94	4.60	4.46
2016-17	0.66	8.69	3.82	3.89
2017-18	0.67	8.15	3.61	3.34
2018-19	0.62	7.67	3.05	2.65
2019-20	0.57	6.87	2.41	1.96

It's important to mention that leprosy has a long incubation period, and, therefore, leprosy eradication becomes a long drawn process. However, all efforts are being made under NLEP to make India leprosy free.

(c): The State/UT-wise number of new leprosy patients in the country is placed at Annexure.

(d): No survey has been conducted to ascertain the socio-economic condition of the leprosy patients in the country under NLEP. However, all diagnostic and treatment facilities are provided free of cost to all leprosy patients across the board at all Government Healthcare Facilities. Besides, all aids and appliances including MCR footwear, and DPMR services are also provided free of cost to all needy persons affected by leprosy.

(e): The treatment for uncomplicated leprosy patients is available up to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) level. The entire treatment for leprosy patients is provided free of cost across the board under NLEP at all Government Healthcare Facilities. The complicated cases are treated in District Hospitals and Tertiary care hospitals free of cost. Medical services for leprosy are integrated with other general health services, as there should not be any discrimination attached against patients suffering from leprosy. DPMR services including Reconstructive Surgeries (RCS) are also provided free of cost under NLEP. One time welfare allowance of Rs 8000/- is also paid under NLEP to each person undergoing RCS.

(f): Government of India has committed to achieve target of Leprosy Free India. In order to achieve this target, Government has launched several initiatives, such as; (i) Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance, both in rural and urban areas in order to ensure detection of leprosy cases on regular basis and at early stage in order to prevent grade II disabilities (ii) Convergence of leprosy screening under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) for screening of children (0-18 years) and under comprehensive Primary Health Care Package under Ayushman Bharat for screening of people above 30 years of age. In addition, various services are being provided under the programme for Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) i.e., reaction management, provision of MCR footwear, Aids & Appliances, referral services for management of cases and Reconstructive surgery at District Hospitals and Medical Colleges/Central leprosy Institutes. Ultimately, it is the early case detection followed by complete treatment that will lead the country towards leprosy free status.

**State/UT-wise number of new leprosy patients**

Sl. No.	State/UT	New Cases Detected in F.Y. 2017-18	New Cases Detected in F.Y. 2018-19	New Cases Detected in F.Y. 2019-20
1	Andhra Pradesh	4695	5294	4685
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25	39	30
3	Assam	987	940	850
4	Bihar	21353	17154	16595
5	Chhattisgarh	10474	8322	8905
6	Goa	108	92	79
7	Gujarat	6894	5218	4081
8	Haryana	443	447	398
9	Himachal Pradesh	129	150	141
10	Jharkhand	5230	4942	6160
11	Jammu & Kashmir	149	120	110
12	Karnataka	2892	2789	2724
13	Kerala	520	705	675
14	Madhya Pradesh	6523	6294	8020
15	Maharashtra	16065	15299	16572
16	Manipur	24	22	21
17	Meghalaya	16	13	17
18	Mizoram	11	5	5
19	Nagaland	38	35	36
20	Odisha	9576	10786	10077
21	Punjab	509	495	531
22	Rajasthan	992	1088	1124
23	Sikkim	21	13	19
24	Tamil Nadu	4277	4793	4252
25	Telangana	2910	3545	4001
26	Tripura	32	26	73
27	Uttar Pradesh	19337	20951	15484
28	Uttarakhand	310	318	320
29	West Bengal	9527	8185	6208
30	A & N Islands	32	13	20
31	Chandigarh	128	149	134
32	D & N Haveli	273	261	200
33	Daman & Diu	19	27	29
34	Delhi	1580	1769	1824
35	Lakshadweep	15	3	0
36	Ladakh	NA	NA	2
37	Puducherry	50	32	49
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,26,164</b>	<b>1,20,334</b>	<b>1,14,451</b>