

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:866
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
ORAL ANTI-HEPATITIS-B DRUG
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;T. GOVINDAN

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

- (a) the number of persons afflicted with Hepatitis B in the country, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether any survey has been made to meet the requirement of drugs for these patients;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to supply free Oral anti-Hepatitis B drug as recommended by the World Health Organisation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent this disease in the country especially in Bihar?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a): India is considered to have intermediate endemicity of Hepatitis B. The prevalence of Hepatitis B carriers is estimated to be between 2-7%. Accordingly, number of Hepatitis B carriers in the country is estimated to be about 45 million. The Central Bureau of Health Intelligence has furnished a statement of reported cases of viral hepatitis in India during 1998, a copy of which is annexed.

(b) to (d): Since Health is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take measures for prevention and control of all diseases. However, the inclusion of Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunisation Programme was considered by the Department of Family Welfare while formulating Plan of Action for the 9th Plan but was not found feasible on account of the prohibitive cost involved (over Rs.500 crores per annum).

(e): The steps being taken to prevent the disease in the country inter-alia including in Bihar are:-

- i. Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunised against Hepatitis B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps;
- ii. Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks;
- iii. Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme;
- iv. Health awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme are being undertaken; and
- v. Guidelines have been issued to State authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Sl.No.	STATE/UT	No. of CASES
1	Andhra Pradesh	19309
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3	Assam	15519
4	Bihar	
5	Goa	157
6	Gujarat	2928
7	Haryana	1034
8	Himachal Pradesh	1606
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1658
10	Karnataka	6353
11	Kerala	14993
12	Madhya Pradesh	5291
13	Maharashtra	11057
14	Mahipur	1525
15	Mechalaya	496
16	Mizoram	243

17	Nagaland	435
18	Orissa	18145
19	Punjab	1604
20	Rajasthan	1152
21	Sikkim	264
22	Tamil Nadu	528
23	Tripura	317
24	Uttar Pradesh	2779
25	West Bengal	..
26	A &N Islands	230
27	Chandigarh	
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76
29	Daman & Diu	124
30	Deihi	2972
31	Lakshadweep	120
32	Pondicherry	203

Total (All India) 111210