

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
ANTHRAX CASES
M.H. AMBAREESH;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the Anthrax cases in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether hospitals in the country are well equipped to tackle the menace;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the names of companies who are manufacturing drugs to combat Anthrax;
- (f) whether any spurious drugs being sold in the market, have been noticed; and
- (g) if so, the preventive action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR.C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 43 FOR 21.11.2001.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Natural anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country. The data available with National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is given below:-

	1999	2000	2001			
States	Cases	Deaths	Case	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Karnataka	8	5	Nil	Nil	4	2
Orissa	Nil	Nil	43	3	Nil	Nil

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has convened a meeting-cum workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism on 29th October, 2001 at New Delhi wherein Health Secretary, Home Secretary and Director of Health Services from various States and Union Territories, eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country and heads of different hospitals in Government and private sector in Delhi participated and deliberated on various aspects. The officials from the State Governments gave a brief account of their preparedness to tackle bio-chemical terrorism. All of them assured that they have got the expertise and sufficient stock of medicines to tackle the situation.

(e) Drugs like Penicillin, Ciprofloxacin, Doxycycline, Amoxycillin are recommended for medical therapy for patients suffering from Anthrax infection. A large number of manufacturers in India are marketing these drugs. Ciprofloxacin formulations are manufactured and marketed by M/s Nicolas Piramal, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Lupin Pharma, Sun Pharma, Bayers (I), Cipla, Biochem, Aristo and Doxycycline preparations are manufactured and marketed by Dr. Reddy's laboratory, Biochem Macleoid Laboratory, Ranbaxy etc.

(f)&(g): No such complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, all the State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a strict check on the possible movement of any spurious/counterfeit drugs. In this context, the guidelines to be adopted for focused activity in this area has also been circulated.