

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1187
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
NON-AVAILABILITY OF ANTI-SNAKE BITE DRUGS
UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

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

- (a) the number of persons died due to the non-availability of anti-snake bite drugs in the dispensaries of the rural areas during the last year, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the shortage of anti-snake bite drugs in several dispensaries located in the rural areas;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which these drugs are likely to be made available in all the dispensaries/hospitals in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b) There is, generally, no shortage of Anti-Snake Venom serum (ASVS) in the country and it is produced in the country in sufficient quantities. The ASVS is procured by the State Governments and supplied to the Health Centres of the States.

Health is a State subject. The Central Government do not maintain data in respect of deaths that may have occurred on account of non-availability of anti-snake bite drugs.

(c) & (d) All the Health Centres in the country, particularly in rural areas are expected to stock ASVS for Snake bites. Ministry advises the State Governments from time to time to see that equilibrium is maintained between demand and supply of such drugs.