

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:256
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
CONJUNCTIVITIS CASES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

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

- (a) whether red-eye disease or the conjunctivitis cases were reported in the metropolitan cities in August-September, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in 1996 also this disease had taken the shape of an epidemic;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are institutes in the country for research and study of communicable diseases and virology;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether after the break out of conjunctivitis in the country in 1996 the Government had approached these institutes for doing research on it;
- (h) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The conjunctivitis cases were reported from Mumbai (1286), Delhi (2621), Chennai (540) and other cities during August - September, 2003.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. In 1996, conjunctivitis cases were reported from Mumbai (955) and New Delhi (807).

(e)to(i): Yes, Sir. Institutes which carry out research in this area including National Institute of Virology, Pune, Centre for Research in Medical Entomology, Madurai, Virus Unit Kolkata, Enterovirus Research Centre, Mumbai, National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Calcutta, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. These Institutes carry out research on Viral Conjunctivitis from time to time. Virus associated with the conjunctivitis cases in 2003, as isolated by Indian Council of Medical Research, was Coxsackie Virus-A 24.