

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4955
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
ERADICATION OF LEPROSY
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India remains among the high prevalence countries regarding the leprosy as reported in the Hindu dated March 22, 2005;
- (b) whether the medical rehabilitation of leprosy patients is still a major problem ;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has worked out any policy in collaboration with WHO in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate leprosy in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): Currently nine countries including India have yet to achieve leprosy elimination. However, India is on course to achieve the goal of leprosy by December 2005, as set by the National Health Policy.

(b): No Sir. The number of cases with deformities due to leprosy is showing a steady decline over last 5 years as shown below :-

Year	No. of deformity cases detected among new cases
2000-01	12934
2001-02	12951
2002-03	8526
2003-04	5302
2004-05	3812

(c)&(d): The following services are provided free of cost under the NLEP to all deformity cases.

Reconstructive Surgery for correction of deformities arising from leprosy. These are provided free of cost at 41 Hospitals run by / supported by ILEP (International Leprosy NGOs) in the country, and also by Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu) and by few medical colleges. Special footwear (Microcellular Rubber) are provided free of cost to needy patients by the NGO Hospitals mentioned at C and D

(i) above; the same are also provided by all the District Leprosy Societies in the country. All General Health Care Staff in the county is being provided training in prevention of deformities and care.

(e):The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme for the elimination of Leprosy from the country. NLEP is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in all the States. The details of the scheme are :-

i) Decentralization & Institutional Development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the Districts in the country which are responsible for proper planning, implementation, monitoring & timely corrective action.

ii) Integration of Leprosy Services with General Health care system in the country for better out-reach & utilization of services by community.

iii) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Govt. Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.

iv) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns through Mass Media as well a local media at periphery.

v) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy and in disability prevention & Care.

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