

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1062
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
HYPERTENSION THREAT
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that an epidemic of hypertension threat has invited the concern of scientists;
- (b) whether the Government is of the opinion that there is a need to accord priority to the prevention, detection and treatment of high blood pressure;
- (c) whether the number of people suffering from hypertension is increasing in big cities ;
- (d) whether Mumbai has been identified as a place having maximum number of persons suffering from hypertension; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to combat it?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): According to Indian Council of Medical Research, epidemiologic studies on hypertension carried out in the country from 1960 onwards have reported that the prevalence of hypertension has an increasing trend over a period of time. The prevalence of hypertension was approximately 23% of the population with urban prevalence rates of 25-30% and rural prevalence rates 10-15% in the year 2000 A.D. The cross sectional studies carried out in different cities show an increasing trend in number of people suffering from hypertension. The study by P.C. Gupta et al. of a large cohort in Mumbai, has revealed that the prevalence of hypertension was around 48% in the age of group of 35 years and above. Since hypertension is related to life style practices, the government is creating health awareness amongst the people through the media including electronic media.