

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6905
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
NO DIABETES CASE AMONG TRIBES OF RAJASTHAN
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that in people belonging to some tribes in the country particularly in Rajasthan not a single case of diabetes has ever been reported so far;
- (b) if so, whether the ICMR has launched studies to find out the exact reasons for this; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted random studies on Raica and non-Raica communities in Rajasthan and their consumption of Camel Milk. The mean fasting blood glucose of persons belonging to Raica Community was found to be 90.4 mg % whereas it was 95.2 mg % for non-Raica Community. It was found that prevalence of Diabetes was 0% in Raica community taking camel milk, 1.1 % in Raica community not taking camel milk, and 2.8% in non-Raica community not taking camel milk but living in the same geographical and socio-agricultural environment.

Further studies are required to confirm that consumption of camel milk will actually reduce the incidence of diabetes mellitus. In this regard the ICMR has proposed to initiate two studies on the anti-diabetic properties of camel milk. These are entitled 'Hypoglycemic/insulin like activity of camel milk: quantification of the effect in animal models of diabetes/insulin resistance' and 'effect of Camel Milk on Glucose Metabolism in Adults with Normal Glucose Tolerance and Type 2 Diabetes in Raica Community: a cross over study'. The studies have not yet been started and are planned to begin in 2005 and likely to be completed in two years time after commencement.