

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:106  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005  
WHO REPORT ON CHRONIC DISEASES  
McLeod Smt. Ingrid;Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its recent report has given a wake up call to India to face effectively the challenges posed by the chronic diseases in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 106 FOR 30TH NOVEMBER , 2005.

WHO's Report titled 'Preventing Chronic Disease - A Vital Investment' has been globally launched recently. The report points out that 80% of chronic disease deaths occur in low and middle-income countries including India. The problem of chronic disease (i.e. heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer etc.) has major adverse impact on the quality of life of affected individuals, causes premature death and creates large adverse and under appreciated economic effects on families, communities and societies in general. The low and middle income countries are expected to suffer a substantial opportunity loss in terms of their national income over the next 10 years as a result of mortality and morbidity caused by heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

The report has called upon the world community to implement comprehensive and integrated approaches that encompass interventions directed at both the whole population and individuals focusing on the common underlying risk factors cutting across specific diseases.

The Government of India has already been implementing various public health programmes both at policy level and grass root levels, laying stress on research and training of medical personnel in the field of chronic diseases.

An Integrated National programme for the Prevention and Control of Cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes is under development.

The National Rural Health Mission launched recently also seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle for prevention of chronic diseases. This is sought to be achieved through inter-sectoral convergence, development of capacities for preventive health care at all levels for promoting healthy life styles, reduction in consumption of tobacco and alcohol etc.

The National Cancer Control Programme has been revised in 2005 and monitory ceilings for various sub-schemes of this programme, focusing on creation of awareness and provision of treatment, have been significantly raised.

Department of AYUSH has taken various steps to popularize the use of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy to focus on healthy eating and living habits.

Some of the specific steps initiated in the sphere of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases are listed below:-

The Indian Council of Medical Research and World Health Organization have undertaken studies on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) risk factor prevalence in five centers in India.

Under the World Bank assisted Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) which was launched in November, 2004, NCD risk factor survey is an important component.

Standard treatment guidelines for Diabetes, Asthama and Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases have been developed.

Tobacco, the single most important risk factor for chronic diseases, has been addressed in India through a comprehensive national law for tobacco control in April, 2003. India has also ratified the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.

Health promotion and advocacy efforts have been taken up along with Integrated NCD prevention programmes in various parts of India with focus on industrial population.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the WHO has initiated follow up action on the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health which offers various avenues to increase vegetable and fruit consumption and increase physical activity.

In its efforts to promote healthy life styles and prevent chronic diseases, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has established a 'Healthy Life Style Centre' in Nirman Bhavan which offers Yoga, Gymnasium facilities and IEC materials on risk factors for chronic diseases and how to prevent them.