

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4053

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

POLIO SUMMIT, 2004

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

- (a) whether the WHO have prescribed any time-limit for eradication of Polio in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of polio cases reported in the country from January 1, 2004 till date;
- (d) whether International Presidential Polio Summit, 2004 was held in July, 2004;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken in the summit;
- (f) the suggestions given by the participants;
- (g) the reaction/response of the Government thereto;
- (h) whether foolproof solution against polio would be achieved by 2005; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) As per the World Health Assembly Resolution of 1988, global eradication of polio was to be achieved by the end of 2000 A.D. However due to delayed progress in most of the endemic countries, the date for certification has been revised to end of 2007. Thus all the countries are to achieve zero incidence of polio by the end of 2004, so that no transmission of wild polio virus takes place from 2005 onwards.

(c) The number of polio cases reported in the country from January 1st, 2004 till date is annexed.

(d) The Rotary International Polio Summit 2004 was held on 7th and 8th August 2004.

(e) The polio summit was organized with the objective of keeping the attention of the world community focused on the problems and to strengthen the resolve to make India polio-free. All the participants were of the unanimous view to wipe out the wild poliovirus and weed-out the disease from the Indian soil. Strategic communication and interventions were discussed and these were duly supported by Rotary International to change opinions, attitudes and behavior of families still resisting to accept the OPV vaccination. By the end of this year Rotary's resolve is to help reach each and every child in every nook and corner of India in order to totally eradicate the poliovirus circulation in the country.

(f) Participants suggestions were unanimous about the fact that this is the best time to eradicate polio from India and from South Asia at large. The transmission of the virus is the lowest ever during the current year and all present at the summit felt that if focused, concerted and dedicated efforts are made during the upcoming mop-up round in the month of August 2004 and the following four National Immunization Day rounds, India can reach zero polio status by the end of this financial year. To achieve this goal, it was felt that with the commitment of the top political and bureaucratic leadership, the States Administration, particularly of UP and Bihar, the health officials and the grass root level health workers and with the unflinching support of International Partners every child must be reached and virus transmission interrupted at all cost. The recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on Polio Eradication were also discussed and it was suggested to follow these in both in letter and in spirit.

(g) to (i) The Government of India have appreciated the suggestions made in the summit. Significant achievement has been made in limiting the circulation of wild poliovirus as only 33 cases so far have been detected which is the lowest ever during the current year. The recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) are being implemented and four rounds of National Immunization Day are scheduled in the months of October and November 2004 and January and February 2005. Efforts are being made to reach and vaccinate all children below 5 years of age during these National Immunization Day rounds (NIDs) so that the circulation of the wild virus is interrupted and India can reach zero polio status by the end of this financial year.

ANNEXURE

The number of Polio case report in the country from January 1st 2004 till date.

SI.No. State/UTs Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Total

1	Andhra Pradesh			1		1		
2	Bihar	3	1		1	2		7
3	Delhi	1		1				
4	Karnataka		1			1		
5	Maharashtra			1	1	2		
6	Tamil Nadu	1			1			
7	Uttar Pradesh	1		6	10	2	19	
8	West Bengal		1		1			

India Total 4 3 1 1 9 12 3 33