

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:218

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005

HEPATITIS B

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

- (a) whether Hepatitis B has emerged as a bigger problem than AIDS in India;
- (b) if so, whether India is world's second largest pool of carriers of the lethal disease;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases detected, State- wise; and
- (d) the strategy chalked out by the Government to check the alarming rise of Hepatitis B in the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 218 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2005.

According to Indian Council of Medical Research, Hepatitis B infection is several times more infectious than AIDS. India has the second largest pool of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers in the world (next to China) and contributes to nearly 15% of the entire pool of HBV carriers in the world.

While separate data of Hepatitis B cases is not centrally maintained, State- wise number of cases due to Viral Hepatitis including Hepatitis B as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence during the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 is annexed.

Hepatitis B spreads through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injection etc. and also from mother to child. Hepatitis B is preventable by ensuring precautionary measures. The Government has launched a pilot project of immunization of Hepatitis B free of cost for children below one year only. Hepatitis B vaccination has commenced and is continuing in 15 cities since 2002- 03 and in 32 districts and Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 2003-04.

While the general health care delivery system in the country is well equipped to handle various diseases, Hepatitis B is effectively tackled through preventive measures including vaccination. The following measures have been taken to prevent infection of Hepatitis B: -

Central Government Hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunised against Hepatitis B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.

Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in blood banks.

Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.

Health awareness campaigns regarding dangers of using non-sterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme are held.

Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Vaccine for Hepatitis B is available in the country at affordable prices.

ANNEXURE

State-wise cases and deaths due to Viral Hepatitis reported during 2000-2004

S. No	State/U.T.	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths

1.	Andhra Pradesh	27595	114	24530	38	16224	19	23094	110	28222	72
2.	Aruanchal Pradesh	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	621	2	299	7	N.R.	N.R.
3.	Assam	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
4.	Bihar	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
5.	Chhattisgarh	#	#	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
6.	Goa	229	0	124	0	71	0	190	0	94	0
7.	Gujarat	3982	30	3891	21	2365	22	2752	15	5860	26
8.	Haryana	1086	6	2731	10	1085	9	1645	9	1978	136
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1464	1	1275	0	1648	1	1924	1	2359	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6171	0	4226	0	6245	0	8432	0	8398	0
11.	Jharkhand	#	#	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
12.	Karnataka	24571	91	26256	189	32215	161	24954	108	46659	228
13.	Kerala	5521	8	4532	6	5323	7	7433	9	5405	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6620	11	3267	10	6112	32	9599	25	15859	28
15.	Maharashtra	40962	244	39911	234	29525	101	33515	118	48789	150
16.	Manipur	728	7	1558	0	426	0	310	0	310	0
17.	Meghalaya	301	1	500	0	472	1	419	1	764	1
18.	Mizoram	943	2	1193	11	1164	9	744	8	717	2
19.	Nagaland	408	0	144	0	157	0	127	0	27	0
20.	Orissa	14011	107	7334	38	715	48	2500	39	2446	40
21.	Punjab	1796	1	4881	19	6652	26	5169	22	1536	6
22.	Rajasthan	1601	39	2955	89	1758	36	2076	39	2272	53
23.	Sikkim	594	5	409	1	322	2	414	2	372	5
24.	TamilNadu	1740	4	1632	1	3177	2	6476	2	11261	7
25.	Tripura	113	8	1784	9	105	2	242	3	1187	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	988	24	1885	14	N.R.	N.R.	2964	1	2	1
27.	Uttaranchal	#	#	N.R.	N.R.	5431	13	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
28.	West Bengal	5831	157	6303	265	7032	264	6527	198	6771	212
29.	A&N Islands	252	8	536	2	698	8	467	12	258	2
30.	Chandigarh	219	3	310	8	451	5	398	11	300	1
31.	D&N Haveli	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	232	0	227	0	675	3
32.	Daman & Diu	41	0	6	0	24	0	23	1	6	0
33.	Delhi	4077	162	6374	164	5053	139	7476	262	10656	143
34.	Lakshadweep	258	0	71	1	22	0	19	0	20	1
35.	Pondicherry	932	5	654	9	534	5	872	3	736	2
	Total	153034	1038	149262	1147	135859	914	151287	1006	203939	1122

Source: CBHI, Ministry of Health & F.W.

Notes: 1.#For the year 2000, separate figures are not available for the newly formed three states. Hence, cases and details if any, in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal are included in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

2. N.R. implies 'not received.'