

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3111
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
HANTA VIRUS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) whether the deadly life-threatening Hanta virus that causes hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a acute adult respiratory disease, could be surfacing in India as reported in the Times of India dated November 4, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Hanta virus has been noticed anywhere in India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the precautionary measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the information received from Indian Council of Medical Research, recent study conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore and published in Indian Journal of Medical Research is the first report of the presence of Hanta Virus infection in humans in India. The `Study for Serological evidence of Hanta virus infection in human population in South India` was done on serum samples from 152 fever patients showing symptoms of dengue and leptospirosis. Out of these patients, 23 were found positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. In addition, 87 blood donors were also studied in which 5.7 % were found to be positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM.

(c) & (d) As reported by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Thottapalayam virus (TPMV), the indigenous hantavirus was isolated from the spleen of a shrew in Vellore during July, 1964. National Institute of Communicable Diseases has also reported that one sera sample collected from Andaman and Nicobar Islands during an outbreak of acute fever, haemoptysis and pulmonary oedema in 1988 was found positive for Hanta virus.

(e) Evidence from all studies on Hanta virus for infection of human population in India is entirely serological. The virus can be prevented by limiting contact with rodents and their excrement. NICD provides technical inputs for laboratory diagnosis on infection from hanta virus.