

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:20  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005  
CHOLERA CASES  
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

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

- (a) Whether any cases of cholera have been reported from the water-logged areas of Chennai, Tamil Nadu after the recent floods there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of people who died as a result thereof; and
- (c) the various steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent / control water-borne diseases?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As reported by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, 58 incidents of cholera from the water-logged areas of Chennai and another 37 incidents of cholera from the neighboring district of Tiruvallur have been reported. However, no death has been reported due to cholera.

(c) Health is primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases like cholera is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of water borne diseases. The preventing measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of water borne diseases.

The Government of India has also launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November 2004 to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including water-borne diseases so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to various diseases could be reduced.