

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3267  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005  
SPREAD OF PLAGUE  
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the reports that changing climate can spread plague; and
- (b) if so, the details of the preparations being made by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Plague is an acute communicable disease caused by bacteria *Yersinia Pestis* and transmitted to man by the bite of the infected rat flea. It is a zoonosis being a disease of rodents and man is affected incidentally. Geographical, Meteorological and climatic factors etc. have an indirect influence on qualitative and quantitative distribution of rodents and insects that act as potential reservoir and carriers of the *Y. Pestis*.

A multi-pronged approach is adopted to prevent occurrence of plague involving improvement of environmental sanitation, rodent and vector control by using insecticides, increasing public awareness etc. The continuous surveillance of plague has helped in preventing its occurrence. Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project has been launched in November 2004 to strengthen the surveillance activities of various diseases, including plague.