

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:479

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006

HEART DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to come out with a national policy on congenital heart diseases and adopt an action plan to provide treatment to children suffering from heart diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any training to doctors for treating heart diseases, developing new treatment procedures and creating awareness among parents to prevent such diseases among children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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. 479 FOR 17TH MAY, 2006.

A congenital heart defect is a structural problem (or defect) in the heart that is present at birth. A baby's heart begins to develop shortly after conception. During development, structural defects can occur. These defects can involve the walls of the heart, the valves of the heart and the arteries and veins near the heart. Congenital heart defects can disrupt the normal flow of blood through the heart. According to AIIMS, the incidence of congenital heart disease is about 0.8/1000 live births. A large number of babies are born with congenital heart disease in the country. Many of them require specialized care by paediatric cardiologists and by cardiac surgeons who are specially trained in pediatric heart surgery. At present, there is no proposal for National Policy on congenital Heart Disease. However, the Government propose to initiate and implement a National Programme for the Prevention and control of Cardio Vascular Diseases(CVD) and Diabetes to reduce the adverse health impact of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes. Draft National CVD, Diabetes and Stroke Control Programme, which was submitted to Planning Commission earlier, is being updated to make it comprehensive. The National Programme would be operational after completion of the procedures including the approval of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The benefits out of this programme would include reduction in the case of heart diseases, diabetes as well as their timely treatment avoiding further complication. The training of doctors is being planned under the proposed programme.

National Board of Examination is conducting 2 years fellowship programme in pediatric cardiology in select hospitals in India.