

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006

LEPROSY PATIENTS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the growing Leprosy patients in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to eradicate the disease?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): During last 10 years the number of cases on record have declined from 157 in March, 1996 to 27th in March, 2005. Thus the leprosy cases in the Andaman & Nicobar are declining. The Islands have already achieved elimination of leprosy (i.e. PR of less than 1/10,000 population) in 2003-2004. As in December 2005, with a population of 396243 there were 27 cases on record and the PR is 0.68/10,000 population.

(c): The goal of National Health Policy, 2002 was to achieve elimination of leprosy at National level and not the eradication. Andaman & Nicobar Islands have already achieved leprosy elimination in 2003-04 i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population. Elimination at national level has been achieved as on 31st December 2005 which was the target date under the National Health Policy. The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Elimination Programme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme throughout the country including in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under this Programme Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) is provided.