

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:304

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006

ERADICATION OF FILARIA

Murmu Shri Hemlal;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

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

- (a) Whether the number of Filaria patients has been increasing in the country ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) Whether there is no remedy for the disease in allopathic system of medicine ;
- (d) If so, the effective steps taken by the Government to eradicate Filaria including development of medicines for the purpose; and
- (e) The amount spent and the present status of the programme being run for the eradication of Filaria in the country, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 304 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2006

(a) & (b) : Lymphatic filariasis is a chronic disease and has manifestations like lymphoedema (elephantiasis) and hydrocele. Government of India has started house to house survey for enlisting of cases of Lymphoedema and hydrocele prior to Annual Mass Drug Administration with single dose of DEC

(Diethylcarbamazine citrate) tablets since the year 2004 in order to provide them services for prevention of attacks of acute lymphangitis (high fever, swelling and pain in affected part of the body) and acute lymphadenitis (swelling of lymph glands, pain and fever) and surgical operation for hydrocele.

In the year 2004, 202 districts in 20 endemic states were surveyed which yielded 361234 lymphoedema and 226807 hydrocele cases, while in the year 2005, 243 districts in 20 endemic states were surveyed which yielded 524416 lymphoedema and 308582 hydrocele cases.

The state-wise distribution of lymphoedema and hydrocele cases is appended at Annexure I.

(c) : There is cure for persons having microfilariae (larvae of filaria worm) with drugs like DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) and Albendazole. However, there is no cure for Lymphoedema (swelling of affected parts), but the attacks of acute lymphangitis

(high fever, swelling and pain in affected part of the body) and acute lymphadenitis

(swelling of lymph glands, pain and fever) could be prevented by observing foot hygiene and exercise. Lymphatic filariasis patients with hydrocele can be cured by surgical operation

(d) : The Government of India has launched the following two pronged strategy for elimination of Lymphatic filariasis by the year 2015:

1. Annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single dose of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) for 5 years or more to the eligible population (except pregnant women, children below 2 years of age and seriously ill persons) to interrupt transmission of the disease.
2. Home based management of lymphoedema cases and up-scaling of hydrocele operations in identified CHCs, District hospitals and medical colleges.

(e) : The details of amount released to filaria endemic states for carrying out activities towards elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis since 2003-04 is enclosed at Annexure II. During the year 2004, 315 million population was administered single dose of DEC tablets in 202 districts of 20 states, while in the year 2005, 346.9 million population was administered single dose of DEC tablets in 229 districts of 19 states. The state-wise coverage during the year 2004 and 2005 are appended at Annexure III.