

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1107  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006  
NEW TREATMENT FOR KALA AZAR  
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) the estimated number of persons who die every year due to Kala-azar in the country;
- (b) whether the Drug Controller General of India has recently approved new treatment for Kala-azar in the country;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) the details of results of clinical trials of the medicines manufactured so far; and
- (e) the time by which new treatment and tested medicines are likely to be made available to the patients in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): The reported number of deaths due to kala-azar during the last three years were as below:

Year	Deaths
2003	210
2004	155
2005	157

(b) & (c): The Drug Controller General of India has recently approved oral anti kala-azar drug `Miltefosine` for treatment of kala-azar patients.

(d) & (e): The clinical trials of miltefosine - oral drug have been conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. Based on the results of clinical trials, the Expert Committee of the Directorate of Health Services has recommended introduction of miltefosine as first line of treatment.

The Government of India has already decided to introduce the drug in 10 kala-azar endemic districts in the country and procurement of drug is under way.