

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1234  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006  
PUBLIC HEALTH LAW  
Deora Shri Milind Murl

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

- (a) whether the government is contemplating to bring out a public health law;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including its present status;
- (c) the benefits which are likely to accrue to the general public; and
- (d) the date by which the same is likely to come into effect?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) The Government of India is engaged in the preparation of the draft 'Public Health Emergencies Bill' to replace the existing Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 as this Act is very old and there have been considerable advances in the epidemiological concepts towards prevention and control of epidemic diseases. Moreover, newer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, Avian Influenza etc. have emerged as major/potential challenges to tackle the public health emergency situations in the country arising as result of disasters and bio-terrorism incidents besides dangerous epidemic diseases by instituting appropriate public health measures. The proposed bill will be sent to the State Governments and Union Territories for comments shortly.