

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006  
SPREAD OF DISEASES  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether diseases like typhoid, rat fever and the hand- foot-and-mouth are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Consumption of contaminated water and food, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of diseases like typhoid, rat fever and hand-foot-and-mouth (HFMD). HFMD is caused due to virus, which transmits through feco-oral route. Data regarding rat fever and HFMD is not centrally maintained, however number of patients affected by typhoid during last five years as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence is as follows:

Year	Cases	Deaths
2001	4,90,195	606
2002	4,88,033	542
2003	5,96,684	839
2004	6,58,301	805
2005	6,95,114	419

Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases like typhoid etc. through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, awareness programmes, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including water borne diseases.

The Government of India has also launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November 2004 to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including water-borne diseases like Typhoid, etc so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to various diseases could be reduced.