

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1173
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
LEPROSY PATIENTS
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Madras High Court has given any direction to the Government for submitting any scheme or plan for rehabilitation and welfare of Leprosy patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for providing help and assistance to the affected persons?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): This Ministry has not received any direction from Madras High Court for submitting any scheme or plan for rehabilitation and welfare of leprosy patients.

(c) Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, leprosy services are available through all Primary Health Centres (PHC) & Govt. dispensaries free of cost. Following steps are taken for providing help and assistance to the affected persons i.e. leprosy patients with disability under NLEP –

- i) Organizing Prevention of Disability (POD) camps at block level, where leprosy disabled patients receive one day training on self care practices.
- ii) Conducting Re-constructive Surgery (RCS) operations at various GOI recognized institutions managed by NGO's, Central Govt. Leprosy teaching & research centres, identified Medical Colleges. Recently efforts are on to increase the number of institutions / centres to provide RCS facilities under Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) plan.
- iii) Supplying MCR footwear to needy patients through District Leprosy Societies, NGO's & ILEP institutions.

These services are provided to leprosy disabled persons free of cost.