

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1182
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
UNDP REPORT ON DIARRHOEA DEATHS
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether UNDP report has revealed that diarrhoea deaths in India is 1/3rd of total diarrhoea deaths in the world;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the action taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Human Development Report 2006 published for UNDP, diarrhoea claims 4,50,000 lives in India

(c) & (d) Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for diseases like cholera etc. through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of diarrhoea. 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, surveillance and monitoring distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packet 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 diarrhoea. Technical support to improve the Quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi

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