

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1252

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007

POLIO CASES

Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Jha Shri Raghunath;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether several new cases of polio have been detected recently from several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether this is likely to affect the country's claim of being 'Polio-free';
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to eradicate polio from the country; and
- (e) the present estimate of polio cases made in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2007, 11 cases of wild polio virus have been detected so far from five States as under:

Uttar Pradesh	-	3
Bihar	-	5
Haryana	-	1
Maharashtra	-	1
Andhra Pradesh	-	1

The epidemiological situation of polio in the country was reviewed by India Expert Advisory Group on Polio during December 2006 and they were of the opinion that the population immunity against wild polio virus type 1 will be very high by the end of 2006 due to improvement in Supplementary Immunization Activity quality, use of monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine and outbreak of 2006. The India Expert Advisory Group on Polio was confident that wild polio virus circulation can be stopped in India in 2007 through implementation of appropriate strategies.

(d) & (e) Following steps are being taken to eradicate polio from the country:

- (a) Strategic and targeted use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1 and 3 to finish polio type 1 and type 3 circulation respectively.
- (b) Increasing the number of immunization rounds in high risk districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the 1st half of 2007 to accelerate the immunity of children in these areas against wild polio virus.
- (c) Continued efforts to improve and sustain the quality of immunization campaigns in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- (d) Enhancing social mobilization efforts in West UP by engaging the religious leaders and local influencers to ensure better acceptance and full community participation.
- (e) The ASHA workers selected under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) are also now being fully involved in Pulse Polio Immunization especially in tracking of newborn and missed children and vaccinating them during the monthly Health and Nutrition Day organized At Anganwadi's.