

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2208
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
SICKLE CELL DISEASE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether there is any demand to include sickle-cell disease in the National Health Programme in order to eradicate it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) bodies working in the area of sickle cell disease (SCD) have been requesting for a National Programme for intervention and control of sickle cell disease to benefit the patients. Haemoglobinopathies have been a priority area of research and the Council has recently completed a multicentric study on Intervention programme for SCD patients amongst primarily tribal populations of 4 states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Tamilnadu and the intervention package has been conveyed to these State Govts. For implementation. States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chattisgarh have already initiated certain activities in this regard. As the problem is localized and State Governments can tackle it, it is felt that there is no need to include this aspect in the National Health Programme.