

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2234
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
HIGH INCIDENCE OF TB IN CHILDREN
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

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

- (a) whether children at a tender age are being affected by fatal disease like TB in the various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such children, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for prevention of TB in children?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, from the programme report for the year 2006, 6% of the total TB cases registered are in the pediatric age group (0-14 yrs. age group).

The state wise details about pediatric cases (0-14 yrs.) registered under the Programme during year 2006 is given at Annexure.

(c) Various steps taken under the Programme for prevention of TB in children are as under:

TB in children is a reflection of the prevalence of sputum smear- positive pulmonary tuberculosis and the extent of transmission of TB infection in the community. Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented from 1997 in the country in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. By March 2006, the entire country had been covered under the revised strategy. Diagnosis and treatment of infectious pulmonary TB under RNTCP prevents the transmission of infection. All children <6yrs of age who are household contacts of smear positive TB cases are screened for TB and after excluding active tuberculosis are offered chemoprophylaxis using Isoniazid (INH) 5mg/kg body weight.

BCG vaccination is available under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country which prevents severe form of TB in children.