

Title: Regarding need to initiate time bound programme for eradication of leprosy from Orissa – Laid.

SHRI BHARTUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTAK): I draw the attention of the Government towards the increase in leprosy cases in Orissa. Despite a concerted against leprosy launched in Orissa way back in 1980s, as many as 10,000 new cases of the disease are reported every year in the State. The prevalence rate of the disease in Western Orissa is very high compared to the national average.

Orissa now comes next to Bihar in the incidence of leprosy cases, where on an average, ten out of every 10,000 have the disease. The districts bordering Madhya Pradesh register a higher incidence of leprosy. Bargarh district in Western Orissa has highest rate of 38 per 10,000 followed by Jharsuguda (26.5), Sambalpur (19), Boudh (18), Sonapur and Sundargarh (15) each. The national average of leprosy cases is one per 10,000. Bihar alone accounts for 60 per cent of the total leprosy cases in the country and 40 per cent of the total leprosy cases in the country and 40 per cent of the whole world.

I request the Government to initiate a time bound programme to eliminate this deadly disease from Orissa.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.