

Title: Need to take steps for the elimination of leprosy from the country.-Laid

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA): It is a matter of great concern that the dreaded disease leprosy has not been eradicated from the country so far. According to an estimate, India ranks foremost among the countries saddled with the burden of leprosy sufferers. The survey report says that there are 2.5 million leprosy patients found in India out of 10 million cases of leprosy in the world. The disease is widely spread all over the country as revealed from the house to house survey conducted by the group of doctors, health workers, volunteers, NSS workers, scouts, village health guides and school teachers. About 15 per cent of leprosy sufferers are children below 14 years of age.

The National Leprosy Eradication Programme has not been able to eliminate leprosy from the country. The disease is spreading at a fast rate, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and Daman and Diu. Unless immediate measures are adopted to check the spreading of this dreaded disease and to provide proper treatment, the situation will be further aggravated.

As such, I demand that the Government of India should take steps on war-footing for the elimination of leprosy from the country.