

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the prevalence of New Delhi Ometallo-beta-lactamase (NDM-1);
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Japan has also confirmed a case of NDM-1; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to verify/prove the existence or non-existence of the bug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a), (b) and (d) In 2007, Indian Council of Medical Research initiated a 3 year surveillance study to monitor trends on the occurrence of beta lactamases in gram negative isolates. One of the study objective was to determine carbapenem resistance among strains tested. Based on two year data analysis, current prevalence of NDM-1 among Indian Medical Centres was low - 2% in 2008 and 4.5% in 2009.

- (c) This Ministry has no information on cases confirmed in Japan.

Proposal to revive Malaria Eradication Programme

886. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of a tremendous increase in the number of persons affected by Malaria;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control Malaria;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to revive the earlier Malaria Eradication Programme;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the latest technique of using genetically engineered mosquitoes for vector control; and
- (e) if so, whether Government contemplates to use such techniques?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The reported cases of malaria have come down from 17,85,129 cases in 2006 to 15.63,574 cases in 2009. However, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is being implemented throughout the country for control of malaria and check the spread of the disease. NVBDCP is an umbrella programme for prevention and control of six vector-borne diseases: malaria, filaria, dengue, chikungunya, kala-azar and Japanese Encephalitis. The main strategy for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases advocates for integrated vector control, early case detection and complete treatment, and behavior change communication. Government of India provides technical support and also supplements the efforts of States/UTs

by providing funds and commodities as per their project implementation plans under National Rural Health Mission. However, the programme is primarily being implemented through the State/UT Governments.

(d) and (e) No technique of genetically engineered mosquitoes for vector control is currently available for use as a public health tool.

Decrease polio cases in the country

887. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report, India is well on the way to eradicating the polio virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a sharp decrease in the number of polio cases reported this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no report of the World Health Organization (WHO) mentioning that India is well on the way to eradicating the polio virus. However, at a recent meeting of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on polio eradication, which comprised of national and international experts in the field of epidemiology, paediatrics and public health and representatives of global partners in polio eradication - Rotary International, WHO, CDC and UNICEF, it was concluded that the epidemiological, genetic, serological, operational and technical evidence show that India is on right path to polio eradication. In 2010, India has the lowest ever polio transmission levels, especially during the high transmission season, amidst high quality surveillance.

(c) and (d) Yes. It is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the number of polio cases reported this year. There are 39 polio cases in the country as on 03.11.2010 compared to 568 polio cases in the corresponding period of 2009.

Revival of Scooters India Ltd.

888. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival process of the Scooters India Limited (SIL) is being carried out without taking the unions/association into confidence;