

Dengue cases in Tamil Nadu

542. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is concerned about the increasing number of deaths due to dengue in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government will send a Central medical team like previous year to assess the situation and to prevent further deaths due to this disease in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government of India had deputed a multidisciplinary central team to visit Tirunelveli district from 23rd to 26th May, 2012 to assess the situation and for technical guidance to the State to contain the outbreak as maximum number of cases and deaths were reported from this district.

Another Central Team had been deputed to visit dengue affected coastal areas of Tamil Nadu from 23rd November, 2012 onwards to assess the situation and for technical guidance of the State.

Union Health & FW Secretary reviewed the situation in the States with the State Health secretaries including Tamil Nadu on 12th September, 2012.

Committees of Secretaries (CoS) reviewed the situation through video conferencing in Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pudducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on 05th October, 2012.

The Union Health & FW Minister also reviewed the dengue situation for the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Pudducherry at Chennai on 12th October, 2012.

New strain of polio-like virus

543. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of a new polio-like strain of virus afflicting India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government intends to take to curb the same; and
- (c) whether there are needs for a change in the present procedure of Administering Oral Polio Vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) There are no reports of new-polio like strain of virus afflicting India. The last polio case due to wild poliovirus was reported on 13th January, 2011 and WHO removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild poliovirus transmission on 24th February 2012.

- (b) and (c) In view of above, the question does not arise.

Study on healthcare needs of urban poor

544. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any study of the healthcare needs of the urban poor in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has launched the National Urban Health Mission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.H. KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) No.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Necessary approvals including cabinet approval are required before launch of NUHM.