

Rise in leprosy

235. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards growing number of new leprosy cases in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's response and reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for improving healthcare system, particularly in the face of growing number of leprosy cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) New cases of leprosy detected in the country during last four years are as given below:

Year	No. of new cases
2010-11	126800
2011-12	127295
2012-13	134752
2013-14	126913

Facilities for diagnosis and treatment of leprosy are available at Government health facilities free of cost. A national programme for leprosy is under implementation as a part of National Health Mission. The special measures for achieving elimination of leprosy at district level include improved and early case detection and case management through intensified activities like active case finding, IEC/BCC in the community, capacity building of medical, para-medical and community workers and improved monitoring and supervision. Provision for engaging additional manpower by State Governments to strengthen the leprosy services particularly in the high endemic districts has been made.

Action plan to fight vector borne diseases

236. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is home to Dengue, a fast spreading vector-borne disease affecting mostly poor people and costing India nearly \$45 million every year, as per WHO report;

(b) whether India is home to the rabies virus and around 20,000 rabies deaths occur in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has developed some effective action plan to control those menace; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Dengue, an Aedes mosquito transmitted viral disease, is endemic in India which can affect all sections of the population. In recent time, cases have been reported as under:

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cases	15535	28292	18860	50222	75808

As per First WHO report on neglected tropical diseases published in 2010, the average total economic burden was estimated at around US\$ 29.3 million.

(b) and (c) Rabies is endemic in India. As per a multi centric study carried out by Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI) in 2003-04 for assessing the burden of the disease, an estimated 20,000 rabies deaths occur in India annually.

(d) and (e) **Dengue**

A Mid Term Plan approved by the Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 26th May, 2011 has been developed for prevention and control of Dengue and is being implemented across the country.

The strategy includes Surveillance, Vector Management, Case Management, Outbreak Response, Capacity Building, Behaviour Change Communication, Inter-sectoral Coordination and Monitoring and Supervision.

Rabies

A National Rabies Control Programme is being implemented in the country under Twenty Five Year Plan under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The programme has human and animal components:

The Nodal Agency to implement Human Component is National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi. The focus is to prevent human deaths due to rabies by training of doctors and paramedical staff in appropriate animal bite management, implementation of intradermal route of inoculation of anti-rabies vaccine in major Anti Rabies Centres, community awareness and strengthening lab diagnosis. Animal Welfare Board of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency for implementing animal component with focus on Mass Vaccination and population management of stray dogs.