

Rise in dengue cases

277. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of cases of dengue patients were on a rise during this year during the period from June to October, in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard to prevent the increase of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) No. During this year (till October), 22584 dengue cases have been reported against 60040 dengue cases reported during corresponding period of last year (2013) from different parts of our country.

(c) GOI has taken the following steps for prevention and control of Dengue in the Country:

Technical assistance:

1. Guidelines
 - Developed a long Term Action Plan for implementation by State in January, 2007.
 - In view of upsurge and geographical spread of dengue to newer areas, a Mid Term Plan developed for State prevention and control of Dengue approved by the Committee of Secretaries on 26.05.2011.
 - National guidelines for clinical management of cases at hospitals level.
2. Periodic reviews are carried out at higher level.
 - Union Minister of Health and FW reviewed the dengue and malaria situation in National Capital Region on 2nd July, 2014.
 - Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Spl. DGHS (PH) reviewed the action plan and preparedness of the States including National Capital Territory Delhi for prevention and control of dengue on 17th July, 2014.
3. Advisories are issued from time to time. During 2014, advisories issued from
 - Dte. General of Health Services, Government of India to all Director Health Services (5.5.2014).

- Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme to all Director Health Services (28.1.2014) and State Programme Officers (17.4.2014).
- 4. Regular field visits are being carried out to assess the preparedness and provide technical guidance to the States.
- 5. Training to clinicians on case management and other health care functionaries on programme activities.
- 6. Focused information Education Communication/ Behaviour Change Communication activities are carried out for awareness generation of the community at national and State level.

Diagnostic Facilities:

7. For augmenting diagnostic facilities, 439 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals (SSHs) with laboratory support has been identified and linked with 15 Apex Referral Laboratories (ARLs) with advanced diagnostic facilities for back up support for Dengue across the country.
8. Test kits are provided to these institutes through National Institute of Virology, Pure free of cost.
9. Introduced ELISA based NS1 test for early detection of cases from 1st day of disease in addition to IgM test which can detect the Dengue case after five days of disease.

Budget:

10. Funds are provided to the States for prevention and control of Vector borne diseases including Dengue to implement the public health activities.

Ban on sale of loose cigarettes

278. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert panel set up by the Ministry has recommended ban on sale of loose cigarettes as well as raising the age limit for consumption and increasing the fine for smoking in public spaces to 20,000/- from 200/- apart from making this a cognizable offence;

(b) whether Government has accepted the report and recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?