

2. States/UTs AYUSH/ Health Ministers Conference

In the first ever convened State/UT AYUSH/Health Ministers conference held on 20.02.2015, Ministry of AYUSH again drew the attention of State/UT Ministers and State officials for the need for separate AYUSH Department for the optimum growth of the AYUSH sector and all States/UTs need to have a separate AYUSH Directorate.

Detection of polio-like symptoms in Uttar Pradesh

*158. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a year after India was declared polio free by the World Health Organisation, more than 200 samples have tested positive to polio-like symptoms in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has sent any team to find out the virus which has affected the children in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and, if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fight this new disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) No. Samples have not tested positive for polio. 208 cases reported at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, in media were cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP). Stool samples of all 208 cases have tested negative for wild polio virus. All AFP cases are examined clinically and stool samples tested at laboratory to rule out the presence of wild polio virus. All 208 cases are thus non-polio, belonging to other category of common causes of AFP such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), Injection Neuritis, and Transverse Myelitis etc.

(b) to (d) All AFP cases were investigated by District Immunization Officers and/or Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) from World Health Organizations- National Polio Surveillance Project (WHO-NPSP). The above cases were examined clinically, stool samples tested, follow up done by sharing the stool results/findings, and advised for further treatment in hospital.