

Fatalities from snake bite

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

(a) whether it is fact that more than 50,000 people died due to snakebite and most cases of snakebites are not recorded because they either do not reach the hospital or the doctor cannot diagnose;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the number of institutes producing anti-snake venoms in various parts of the country;

(d) whether Government is not providing sufficient financial assistance to these institutes to produce more anti-snake venoms as some institutes are closed due to funding in the country; and

(e) if so, details thereof and steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Snake bite is mainly an accidental/occupational hazard in tropical and subtropical countries, where rural populations are mainly affected. It is a common occupational hazard mainly in farmers, plantation workers, herders and labourers leading to significant morbidity and mortality that remains largely unreported. The bites inflicted are frequently accidental as when snakes are trodden upon or could result due to sleeping on floor and open style habitation.

Number of cases of snake bites and resultant deaths in the country as reported by the States / UTs during the year 2016 - 2018 as per National Health Profile, 2018 are as under:-

Year	Cases	Deaths
2016	1,78,433	1,068
2017	1,58,650	1,060
2018	1,64,031	885

(c) The anti-snake venom is produced by both public sector and private sector institutes and some of them are as under:-

Public sector:

1. Central Research Institute, Kasauli
2. Haffkine Institute, Mumbai
3. King Institute, Chennai
4. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Kolkata

Private sector:

1. Serum Institute of India, Pune
2. VINS Bioproducts Ltd, Hyderabad
3. Biological E Ltd, Hyderabad
4. Bharat Serum and Vaccine, Mumbai
5. Mediclone Biotech, Chennai

(d) and (e) Public health and hospital being a state subject, primary responsibility of ensuring availability of anti-venom injections / drugs in Public health facilities including Primary Health Centres and rural hospitals is that of respective State Government.

However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), Central Government provides financial and technical support to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for strengthening their healthcare delivery system. This includes support for free of cost essential drugs including anti-venom vaccination to those accessing public healthcare facilities upto district hospitals, under the National Free Drugs Service Initiative. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued directions to all the States / UTs to include Anti Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) in the list of essential drugs of the State, procure these drugs locally for supply to health facilities for use to the needy persons and support the same under the National Health Mission.

**Inadequacy of medical infrastructure and personnel to handle
Covid-19 outbreak**

288. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government felt the inadequacy of medical personnel and infrastructure across the country in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak;