

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1879  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**RISE IN DIPHTHERIA CASES**

**1879. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of Diphtheria have shown an upward trend according to World Health Organisation (WHO) data;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that 84 per cent of the cases reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence are found in some States; and
- (d) if so, the remedial action that has been taken by Government to control this infectious disease, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a)&(b) As per World Health Organization (WHO) data, the number of reported Diphtheria cases have not shown an upward trend and the number of cases reported for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 are 2,076; 3,282 and 1,843 respectively.

(c)&(d) As per Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) provisional data for the year 2019, such Diphtheria cases were reported in some states. To reduce morbidity and mortality due to Diphtheria, vaccine against Diphtheria is administered to all eligible children, adolescent and pregnant women under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). Additionally, the states have been repeatedly instructed to ensure availability of Diphtheria anti toxin at all health facilities.