

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
RISE IN CANCER CASES DUE TO CONTAMINATION IN WATER .

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SHRI RASHEED MASOOD

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to indiscriminate use of pesticides in farming and presence of heavy metals in the drinking water, the number of patients suffering from cancer has increased a lot;
- (b) if so, the action taken so far by Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether any action has been taken by Government in view of the fact that the number of cancer patients has also increased and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a to d): Scientific studies show that heavy metals such as arsenic are known to cause cancer. Data regarding the number of cancer patients due to use of pesticides in farming and presence of heavy metals in drinking water is not centrally maintained. The Government has recently launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS), for the remaining two years of the XIth Five Year Plan. The programme aims to provide health promotion, capacity building including human resources, early diagnosis, management and integration with the primary health care system through Non Communicable Disease clinics at different levels. The programme envisages implementation in 100 districts of 21 States and strengthening of tertiary level health facilities.