

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2016**

SUDDEN UPSURGE IN CHIKUNGUNYA CASES

2374. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI:

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

- (a) whether health experts say the sudden upsurge of Chikungunya this year could be the result of the evolution of the viral strain;
- (b) whether viral strain in patients diagnosed with Chikungunya at the hospital has shown different behaviour for the two tests; and
- (c) if so, what further research has been done to find out a remedy for viral fever in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) to (c): As per results of Chikungunya virus sequencing available from NIV (National Institute of Virology), Pune; All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, the circulating Chikungunya virus in 2015 and 2016 belongs to the ECSA (East Central South African) lineage. This is the same as that responsible for causing massive outbreak of Chikungunya in 2006.

As of now, there is no effective drug for the disease. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Delhi has informed that Bharat Biotech International Ltd. (BBIL) has undertaken development of Chikungunya Vaccine. The disease can be prevented by effective vector control strategies.