

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.268
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH, 2018
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM DISEASES CAUSED BY WORMS**

***268. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study into health and nutrition problems caused in children by worms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has any plans for protection of children from diseases caused by worms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 268* FOR 20TH MARCH, 2018**

(a) & (b)

- Various studies are already available on health and nutrition problems caused in children by worms. Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) infections i.e. roundworms, whipworms and hookworms, have widespread and debilitating consequences in children in the developing world. These parasitic infections result from poor sanitation and hygiene conditions and are easily transmitted among children through contact with the infected soil. Worm infections can lead to anaemia, malnourishment, impaired mental & physical development and pose a serious threat to children's health, education and productivity.
- As per World Health Organization (WHO), 43% of the global population and 64% (22 crore) of the Indian population less than 14 years are at the risk of STH infection.
- To assess the exact burden of STH in India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has conducted nationwide STH mapping. The data shows varied prevalence ranging from 85% in Tamil Nadu to 12.5 % in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) &(d)

- Under National Health Mission (NHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India had launched National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February 2015.

- As per the STH prevalence data, since 2016 the NDD is being conducted bi-annually in all the States/UTs with high STH prevalence, except Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with low prevalence, where it is being conducted annually.
- During NDD, single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of age. The intervention is being implemented through the platforms of anganwadi centres and schools with support of Department of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of Human Resource and Development, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development to ensure maximum coverage.

Year wise coverage under this programme is as follows:

NDD round	Target (in crore)	Covered (in crore)
February 2015	10.31	8.98
February 2016	29.06	24.95
August 2016	15	11.96
February 2017	29.21	26.04
August 2017	25.30	22.80
