

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2819
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2018**

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON LEPROSY

2819. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) what are the measures Government is taking to generate awareness on Leprosy disease in the country;
- (b) what measures Government is taking to ensure that such persons are not discriminated against in the society; and
- (c) how many people are affected by Leprosy in the country as on November, 2017?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Government is taking measures to generate awareness on leprosy disease in the country through the following medium:

- Mass Media (TV, Radio and Press),
- Outdoor Media,
- Rural Media
- Advocacy meetings.

In addition to the above, Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign is celebrated on 30th January every year under which meetings of Gram Sabhas in all villages for leprosy awareness are organized. It is monitored by State and District Leprosy Officers. The messages from District Magistrates and appeals from Gram Sabha Pramukhs are also disseminated from time to time.

Contd.....

The awareness at mass level are also undertaken prior to and during the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) and following key messages are delivered through print media (by pamphlets, big hoardings, paintings) and through interpersonal communication:

- A light color patch, redness, loss of sensation, swelling or nodule over the skin, may be the case of leprosy.
- Leprosy, like any other disease, can happen to anyone, however it is completely curable.
- Early reporting and treatment can prevent disability caused by leprosy.
- Treatment of leprosy i.e. Multi Drug Therapy is available free of cost.

(c): As on 30th November, 2017 total cases on record as reported by all States/UTs are 97128.