

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2626  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**CHILD DEATHS FROM AES**

**2626. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a number of children died because of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (Chamki) in Muzaffarpur in Bihar, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that children under the 10 years of age belonging to poor families contract this disease and it breaks out every year in the months of May-June;
- (c) if so, the details of assistance given to the State Government so far by Government for eradicating (AES); and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the outbreak of AES (Chamki) in future?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): In the year 2019 (up to 13.07.2019), a total of 546 cases and 101 deaths of children were reported from Muzaffarpur in Bihar due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

Government has decided to constitute inter-disciplinary, high quality research team to establish precise cause of recent Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) outbreak and also for timely intervention and management of AES in future to save precious human lives.

(c) & (d) As per Constitutional provisions, 'Health' is a state subject. However, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have taken measures to support State in containment of AES cases as follows:

- **Union Health & Family Welfare Minister (HFM)** had reviewed the situation with Health Minister of Bihar and also with officials from Ministry.
- MoHFW had deputed a Central team of experts consisting of Public Health Specialist from various Central Government Institutes to assist the State Government in containment and management measures.

- ò HFM visited Bihar along with Minister of State (HFW) and team of officers. HFM reviewed the situation and also visited Shri Krishna Medical College & Hospital, (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur.
- ò MoHFW deployed another high level multi-disciplinary team to Muzaffarpur drawing senior Paediatricians from various central government Institutes to advise state in their efforts to manage the cases. Epidemiologists from National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), senior paediatricians, Laboratory technicians from central level are present in Muzaffarpur since 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
- ò Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC) facility of NCDC was activated to monitor the AES situation in Muzaffarpur and co-ordinate tasks at the field level.
- ò MoHFW had further deputed 5 teams of Doctors along with technicians from Central Government Hospitals to SKMCH to support clinical management.
- ò Central team consisting experts from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was also deployed at SKMCH. The team is also scrutinising and reviewing the case records of discharge and deceased patients using a standardised tool to know the reasons for mortality.
- ò Orientation training of all Paediatricians of SKMCH on clinical case management and treatment protocol of AES was conducted on regular basis by the Central Team of paediatricians.

.....