

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3648  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2026**

**ELIMINATION OF LEPROSY-RELATED DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMA**

**3648. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to eliminate leprosy-related discrimination and stigma across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of measures and legal reforms implemented by Government to address such discrimination and protect rights of leprosy-affected persons; and
- (c) whether Government plans further actions to eradicate leprosy and associated stigma, including strengthening healthcare infrastructure, enhancing awareness campaigns, supporting rehabilitation of affected persons and promoting research for effective treatment and prevention?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c) : Health is a state subject. All the programmes are implemented by the respective States/UTs. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to states/UTs as per the approved annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). The responsibility for strengthening of healthcare system including rural areas lies with respective State/Union Territory Government.

The following steps have been taken by Government to improve the Situation:

- Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC): House-to-House surveys in villages and urban areas in identified high burden districts
- Focused Leprosy Campaign (FLC): Active case search where a new case with Grade 2 Disability (G2D) is detected, this search targets 300 surrounding households in urban areas or the entire village in rural areas Special plan for active case search in hard-to-reach areas: Provision of leprosy services through community participation.
- ASHA-based surveillance for leprosy suspects (ABSULS) in districts not covered under LCDC to be integrated in the routine activities and continued.
- Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC) is an activity under NLEP organized across the country for general awareness upto village level and reducing stigma and discrimination. Special Annual Mass Awareness campaigns named Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns (SLAC) were launched on 30th January, 2017 i.e. Anti

Leprosy Day, to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons suffering from leprosy.

- Leprosy services are integrated with the general health care system through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs at Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and tertiary care institutions.
- Regular training and capacity-building programmes are conducted for Medical Officers, ASHAs, ANMs and other frontline health workers for early identification, referral and treatment of leprosy.
- Intensified active case detection through Leprosy Case Detection Campaigns (LCDC) and Focused Leprosy Campaigns (FLC) are undertaken in high-risk and vulnerable areas to ensure early diagnosis and prompt initiation of treatment.
- Contact tracing is carried out and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is administered to eligible contacts of index cases to interrupt transmission.
- Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) services are provided as per programme guidelines, including reaction management, self-care training, provision of assistive devices, Micro-Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear and reconstructive surgery.

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