

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1783
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2017**

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

1783. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether any case of Ebola has been identified in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the present state of preparedness in the wake of reports of inadequate drugs, equipment, trained manpower and quarantine facilities to deal with any outbreak of the Ebola virus in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the remedial measures being taken by the Government to strengthen the health infrastructure to deal with Ebola cases in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for development of drugs and vaccines to treat Ebola cases along with the outcome thereof?

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

(a): No case of Ebola virus disease has been reported in India.

(b) & (c): Government reviewed the state of preparedness in the wake of World Health Organization declaring the Ebola Disease outbreak in West Africa as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 8th August, 2014. Passengers arriving through flights that connect affected countries were screened at seven International airports and nine major ports. Special Health units functioned at these airports and were manned by trained medical and paramedical staff. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme tracked such passengers who arrived from affected countries and had history of contact with a suspect or confirmed Ebola case.

Clinical samples from high risk cases were tested at National Centre for Disease Control and at National Institute of Virology, Pune. Ten more existing laboratories with required bio safety level (BSL) standards were identified to collect, test and store samples.

All samples were tested negative except for an Indian national who travelled from Liberia and had undergone treatment for Ebola Virus disease in that country and certified to be free of the disease was found to carry the virus in his body fluid (semen). This passenger was quarantined at the quarantine centre of Airport Health Organization, Delhi till such time his body fluid tested negative.

State Governments identified isolation facilities to manage cases of Ebola Virus Disease. There is no drug or vaccine available for managing Ebola Virus Disease.

Master Trainers of 25 States and Rapid Response Teams of all States/ Union Territories were trained and Personal Protective Equipments were provided to all States/Union Territories.

24x7 helpline was established in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

On meeting the criteria for interruption of transmission of Ebola virus by the affected countries, WHO terminated the Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding Ebola virus disease on 29th March, 2016, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005).

(d): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has no proposal for developing drugs and vaccines for treating Ebola Virus disease as of now.