

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**WATERBORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**2767. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK”:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of people die due to water based infectious diseases every year;
- (b) the total number of bacteriologists working in the country at present;
- (c) whether the number of bacteriologists is adequate in view of the population of the country;
- (d) whether there is a provision for well equipped mobile laboratories in hilly, remote, inaccessible and backward areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): Yes. Consumption of contaminated drinking water is the cause for diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Enteric Fever (Typhoid) & Viral Hepatitis (A & E) etc. As per the data reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the total no. of deaths due to these diseases during the year 2017 is as follows:

Disease	Cholera	Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases	Enteric Fever (Typhoid)	Viral Hepatitis (A & E)
No. of Deaths	3	1331	493	507

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(b) & (c): All bacteriologists come under the bigger umbrella of Microbiology. As per Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, there are 2409 life members, who can be considered as medical microbiologists. However, the number of bacteriologists working in the country, State/UT-wise is not maintained centrally.

Most teaching hospitals employ microbiologists on the basis of recommendations of Medical Council of India which decides the staffing pattern based on the number of students admitted to the medical college.

(d) & (e): Under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, district hospital laboratories are strengthened for diagnosis of epidemic prone diseases by providing additional funds, equipment after gap analysis, manpower and reagents and kits.

As of May 2018, 268 laboratories have been approved by Government of India for strengthening of which 160 laboratories are performing tests as per IDSP norms. These laboratories are located throughout the country including hilly remote, inaccessible and backward areas.

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