

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 839
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

VISION DAMAGE

839. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether there could be a permanent damage to the vision in the patients of dengue, chikungunya and bacterial infections like typhoid and rickettsia and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the possibility of damage to the vision can be ruled out through early detection and treatment of the above said infections; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for its early detection and control nationwide?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Permanent Vision loss from infectious diseases like dengue, chikungunya, typhoid and rickettsia is very rare. The causes for vision loss may be related to hemodynamic instability, hematopoietic disturbances, immune related or direct organismal invasion; last of these being the least common.

Ophthalmic manifestations in patients with vision loss in the presence of these infections include endophthalmitis, panophthalmitis (secondary to transfusion, intravenous therapy), orbital hemorrhage, pre-retinal and intra-retinal hemorrhage (secondary to low platelet count), retinitis and micro-infarcts (usually immune mediated).

All of these diseases are primarily non-ocular, multi-systemic disorders and hence systemic diagnosis is already available at the time of presentation to the eye specialist.

Management primarily depends on adequate monitoring of systemic features (like blood pressure, blood counts, hematuria, pyrexia, pulse, respiratory rate, neurological alteration etc.) and conservative treatment.

Role of antiviral agents is poorly established in dengue and chikungunya while specific antibacterial therapy is curative in patients with typhoid and rickettsia (e.g. doxycycline in scrub typhus). Management of vision loss also remains conservative in dengue and chikungunya.

(c): Government of India has taken the following steps for diseases like Dengue and Chikungunya under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP):

- Free diagnostic facilities through Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals (SSHs) and Apex Referral laboratories (ARLs) identified across the country. Test kits are supplied by GOI free of cost.
- Guidelines on case management were developed and shared with the states for wider circulation.
- Training is imparted to the doctors on case management.
- Monitoring and supervision for early case detection and prevention and control through reviews and video conference at higher level.
- Advisories are issued to sensitize the States.
- IEC/BCC activities to disseminate knowledge for prevention and control through advocacy meetings, review, electronic and print media.

Further, comprehensive eye care services are also provided by the government free of cost at primary, secondary and tertiary centres across all States/ UTs under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI).