

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4034
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH 2023**

HIGH BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

4034: MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) the number of children in India that have reported high blood lead levels;
- (b) whether UNICEF 2020 report indicates that half the children in India have high blood lead levels;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop efficient systems to screen population for possible lead exposure and to promote early diagnosis;
- (d) whether the Government considers creating facilities for blood lead level screenings mandatorily at every district hospital and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government considers making screenings mandatory for people engaged in occupations most likely to cause lead exposure, such as battery workers, miners, etc.;
- (f) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to raise public awareness about lead poisoning; and
- (g) the details of expenditure incurred on such campaigns by the Government?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (g):

NITI Aayog and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India have jointly prepared a report “Assessment of Lead Impact on Human and India’s Response” (in July, 2022) based on 89 data sets from 36 researches that were carried out between 1970 and 2014 and found that 275 million children under 19 years of age in India have blood Lead levels that are abnormally high i.e., greater than 5 micrograms per decilitre (µg/dl).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system including setting up of laboratory services, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission. Government of India provides approval for the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Government of India has passed a notification in November 2016 as "**Regulation on Lead contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016**" and has prohibited manufacture, trade, import as well as export of household and decorative paints containing lead or lead compounds in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm).

Under National Health Mission (NHM), Information Education Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) has carried out for healthy survival of population especially for children.
