

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2073  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023**

**SICKLE CELL DISEASE**

**2073. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

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

- (a) whether there is any progress with regard to the Government programme for screening blood of Tribal people for sickle cell disease in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the time-frame by which the said programme is likely to be completed; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent/dispel negative notions within the tribal people/community over screening of their blood for sickle cell disease in the country?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (c) : Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disease which affects the whole life of patient. It is more common in the tribal population of India, but occurs in non-tribals too. It not only causes anaemia but also pain crisis, reduced growth and affects many organs like lungs, heart, kidney, eyes, bones and the brain.

To eliminate sickle cell disease by year 2047, Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister from Madhya Pradesh on 1st July, 2023. The objectives of the Mission are provision of affordable, accessible and quality care to all Sickle Cell Diseased patients, reduction in the prevalence of Sickle Cell Disease through awareness creation, targeted screening of 7 crore people till year 2025-26 in the age group of 0-40 years in affected 278 districts of tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and State governments. Till 30.11.2023, a total of 64,61,808 population in the 17 identified States have been screened.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a National Sickle cell portal i.e. <https://sickle.nhm.gov.in> where achievement of screening can be accessed.

Through Ministry of Tribal Affairs, awareness and counselling material have been developed. IEC and media activities are adopted for propagation of awareness of disease, screening and management. State Governments have to play an important role in implementation of mission activities.

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