

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020**

**LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS**

**929. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:**

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

- (a) whether India has highest burden of Lymphatic Filariasis, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the States/UTs which are most affected;
- (b) whether India has hoisted the 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF), if so, the details thereof and the number of foreign delegates who participated in the meeting;
- (c) the points/issues discussed in the said meeting and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has launched the Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis targeting elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis considering as a public health problem by 2020 by adopting newer approaches such as triple-drug therapy, if so, the success achieved so far; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to enhance awareness among the affected communities about the LF and its elimination permanently?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Yes. India contributes to about 40% of global Lymphatic Filariasis(LF) cases. It is endemic in 257 districts of 16 States and 5 Union Territories(UTs) and about 650 million people in these States/UTs are at risk of developing it. LF, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a disfiguring, disabling disease, usually acquired in childhood. Since 2004, Line list of Lymphoedema and Hydrocele cases are being updated annually in the endemic States/UTs. As per reports of December, 2019 (provisional) received from States/UTs, there are 9,21,357 Lymphoedema cases and 3,96,801 Hydrocele cases. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha contribute the highest number of LF cases.

(b): The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis(GAELF) and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme(NVBDCP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare(MoHF&W), Government of India convened the 10th GAELF meeting at New Delhi from 13th -15th June 2018. As per information made available by WHO India, the meet was attended by over 400 delegates including 350 International participants from 42 countries. The participants included representatives from Health Ministries of various countries, academic & research institutions, international development agencies & foundations and other partner organizations including the World Health Organization, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, London School of Tropical Medicine- Neglected Tropical Diseases, NTD Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases and Prof. Charles Mackenzie, Chair GAELF.

(c): The main points discussed in the meeting were:

- i. Launch of “Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018”
- ii. Launch of Triple Drug Therapy (IDA)announced in five districts named Arwal (Bihar), Simdega(Jharkhand), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Yadgir (Karnataka).
- iii. Awards given to 11 countries- Cambodia, Cook Islands, Egypt, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Niue, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Tonga and Vanuatu, for successfully interrupting the transmission of LF in their countries.
- iv. Need for integration with different departments such as Panchayati Raj Institutions and integration with deworming programme for mobilizing the community to achieve LF elimination by good coverage of mass drug administration.

(d): Yes. The MoH&FW has launched the “Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018”and and successfully implemented the Triple Drug Therapy (IDA) programme in selected five districts named Arwal (Bihar), Simdega (Jharkhand), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Yadgir (Karnataka). Eleven more districts of Uttar Pradesh have implemented IDA during December, 2019. One district Tapi in Gujarat has initiated implementation of IDA in Jan. 2020. It is expected that 2-3 rounds of IDA with more than 85% coverage and compliance rate would help bring about elimination of LF.

(e): Steps taken by Government to enhance awareness about LF:

- The amount allocation for Information Education Communication(IEC) has been increased.
- Involving community, school teachers and school children.
- Direct involvement of District Magistrates during Mass Drug Administration.
- Media sensitization
- Innovative IEC material
- Advocacy at the highest political level in the State.