

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 848
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

848. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that India leads the world in terms of the total number of cases for each of the major neglected tropical diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the burden of neglected tropical diseases by utilizing biotechnology to build tools and technologies to combat such neglected tropical diseases; and
- (c) the details of public-private partnerships being carried out for producing vaccines for such neglected such diseases?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a): There are multiple diseases falling under NTDs which are a public health problem.

Guinea Worm Disease is declared eradicated from India since 2000 & regular GWD surveillance is maintained by endemic districts/ states and if any rumour case is reported, the same is investigated.

Amongst other diseases, India has high prevalence of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) whereas Kala-Azar (KA) has reduced to a level of almost elimination.

MoHFW also deals with dengue & Soil transmitted helminthic (STH) infections among WHO enlisted NTDs. MoHFW conducts regular survey in phased manner across the country to estimate the prevalence of Soil transmitted helminthic (STH) infections using Kato Katz thick smear microscopy technique.

For prevention and control of Rabies, Ministry has launched National Rabies Control Program.

(b): Biotechnology is being utilized in research and development efforts to address neglected tropical diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya, Rabies, Trachoma, Leprosy, Leishmaniasis, Filariasis and snakebite envenoming.

This encompasses support to projects in the areas of understanding disease biology, developing newer diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to tackle these neglected tropical diseases.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Department of Biotechnology through its regular programs like Biotechnology Industry Partnership program (BIPP), Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI), Promoting Academic Research Convergence to Enterprise (PACE) and missions like National Biopharma mission (NBM) and Coalition For Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Ind-CEPI) has also taken steps to reduce the burden of neglected tropical diseases by funding projects for the development of tools and technologies.

(c): Under the National Biopharma Mission (NBM), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi in collaboration with Sun Pharma is developing a sub-unit dengue vaccine candidate (DSV4). A live attenuated tetravalent Dengue Vaccine candidate TV003/TV005 licensed from National Institute of Health (NIH) is also being developed under NBM by Indian Immunologicals Pvt Ltd. Under the Ind-CEPI Mission, 'Global Chikungunya Vaccine Clinical Development Program' (GCCDP), a collaboration between Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) is being supported to advance the development of a novel inactivated vaccine candidate for Chikungunya (CHIKV), BBV87.