

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 1091  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2022**

**NAIROBI FLY AND SCRUB TYPHUS MENACE**

**1091. SHRI RAJU BISTA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the Nairobi Fly infestation in Darjeeling, Siliguri, Sikkim and Dooars region due to which thousands of people in these regions have been infected with acute dermatitis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that Scrub Typhus has become a major concern in Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to control both Nairobi Fly infestation and Scrub Typhus infestation;
- (e) whether the Government would send a team of health experts to deal with the Nairobi Fly and Scrub Typhus menace; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) to (f): Nairobi flies, also known as Kenyan flies or dragon bugs or acid fly, are little beetle-like insects which are orange and black in colour and flourish in locations with considerable rainfall, such as Sikkim, north Bengal, Bihar's Seemanchal region.

As reported by state the cases that occurred in Darjeeling, Siliguri & Dooars were of the type of contact dermatitis, amenable to treatment available in the local hospitals, and the nature & magnitude of the problem did not grow up as a serious concern.

Scrub typhus is a zoonotic rickettsial disease that is transmitted to humans by trombiculid mites. The disease is reported from all over India, and the peak of the disease is between August and October. Occasionally some areas report outbreaks of scrub typhus. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare takes up surveillance for Scrub Typhus and provide required technical guidance to states.

As reported by the state, 11, 03, 28 & 24 cases of scrub typhus have been reported during this year in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri & Alipurduar respectively. The test positivity rates are also not unusually high in the laboratories in those districts and no death due to scrub typhus has been reported. Further, required steps such as preventive measures, diagnostic facilities for scrub typhus, case management guidelines and availability of necessary medicines have been made available at the field level by the states.

\*\*\*\*\*