

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3341
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2016**

DIPHTHERIA INFECTION

**3341. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:
ADV. JOICE GEORGE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of recurrence of diphtheria bacteria/ infection in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with number of deaths reported, State/UT-wise including Kerala;
- (c) whether the Government has ascertained/examined the reserves for the recurrence of diphtheria threat;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to contain and check diphtheria across the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) & (b): Yes, the Government has taken note of the Diphtheria infection in the country. The State/UT-wise, including Kerala, provisional numbers of cases and deaths due to diphtheria during 2015 as reported in the National Health Profile 2016, published by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI are annexed.

(c) & (d): Field investigation in states points out two reasons for the occurrence of diphtheria cases in the community. These reasons are:

- (a) Occurrence of disease in unimmunized and partially immunized children against diphtheria.
- (b) Shift in mean age of occurrence of disease to adolescent population.

(e): The following steps have been taken by the Government to contain and check diphtheria across the country:

- Under Universal Immunization programme (UIP), vaccination against Diphtheria disease is being provided as three primary doses of DPT, Hep B and Hib containing Pentavalent vaccine at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age, followed by two booster doses of DPT vaccine at 16-24 months and 5-6 years of age.
- In order to improve the vaccination coverage, the Government launched Mission Indradhanush to cover all the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children in the country.
- Government of India is providing performance based incentives to Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for full and complete immunization and social mobilization to increase immunization coverage.
- Vaccine preventable disease surveillance (VPD) mechanisms exist in the country viz. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), WHO- VPD Surveillance, that regularly review the disease case status and take necessary steps to control any detected outbreak.

State/UT wise cases and deaths due to Diphtheria in India , 2015 (Provisional)

State/UT	No. of cases	No. of deaths
Andhra Pradesh	57	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
Assam	192	0
Bihar	57	1
Chhattisgarh	24	0
Goa	0	0
Gujarat	12	0
Haryana	806	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
Jharkhand	11	0
Karnataka	14	1
Kerala	4	0
Madhya Pradesh	52	0
Maharashtra	181	1
Manipur	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0
Mizoram	47	0
Nagaland	0	0
Odisha	50	0
Punjab	6	0
Rajasthan	445	2
Sikkim	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	0
Telangana	0	0
Tripura	46	0
Uttarakhand	33	0
Uttar Pradesh	89	0
West Bengal	528	4
A & N Islands	1	0
Chandigarh	23	1
D & N Haveli	2	0
Daman & Diu	0	0
Delhi	569	75
Lakshadweep	0	0
Puducherry	0	0
TOTAL	3249	85

Source: National Health Profile, 2016, MoHFW, GoI