

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
RAJYA SABHA  
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009  
ANSWERED ON**

**DEATH OF ANIMALS DUE TO ANTHRAX DISEASE .**

928

Shri Ishwar Singh

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of cattle/animals have died in various parts of the country due to Anthrax disease;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard to find out the exact cause of spread of Anthrax disease in animals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and further steps contemplated to provide help to the State Governments to face the challenge of disease in animals?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)& (b) Sporadic occurrences of Anthrax have been reported in animals. During the year 2008 and 2009 (up to June), 710 and 274 animals died due to this disease . State-wise details are annexed.

(c) & (d) Anthrax is zoonotic disease caused by a bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis* which produced spores. These spores survive in soil for years and under favorable conditions gain entry into the animal body causing the disease. Investigations are routinely carried out in the event of any outbreak by collecting samples from the sick/dead animals for microbiological analysis. The soil samples in the affected areas are also tested to determine the source of infection. In the event of any outbreak following steps are taken to check the spread of the disease: Vaccination of all susceptible animals within a radius of 10 Kms from the site of outbreak of Anthrax disease. Scientific disposal of carcass through burial Disinfection of the cattle shed and premises where outbreak has been confirmed. Creation of awareness among farmers in regard to the disease.

Funds are provided to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC)' for undertaking vaccination against Anthrax.