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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.



Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
3454	09.06.2016	09.06.2016	Bihar	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com/English">www.timesofindia.com/English</a> <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/AES-claims-four-lives-in-Bihar-27-cases-reported-in-state/articleshow/52663035.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/AES-claims-four-lives-in-Bihar-27-cases-reported-in-state/articleshow/52663035.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AES claims four lives in Bihar, 27 cases reported in state</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Bihar			

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) has claimed first deaths in Bihar this year. State programme officer for AES, Dr M P Sharma has confirmed death of four children, even while denying reports that 11 children have died so far. However, the state government's Integrated Disease Surveillance Project cell does maintain that 11 deaths have taken place.

Dr Sharma said between January and June 7 this year, two AES deaths each have occurred in East Champaran and Muzaffarpur. He said 27 cases of AES and three of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have come so far.

He said Muzaffarpur, like every year, has witnessed the maximum AES cases (19) this year. Two cases have surfaced in Sitamarhi, six in East Champaran and one each in Bhojpur and Jehanabad. One case each of JE have surfaced in Bhojpur, Jehanabad and Muzaffarpur. So far, no deaths have occurred due to JE this year.

While the cause of AES is unknown, the JE is caused due to mosquito bite. Vaccine is available against JE but not against AES, as its cause is not known.

State government officials say they are working on improving 'symptomatic treatment' for AES. "We did gap analysis in April itself at Muzaffarpur...Therefore, the number of AES cases in June this year are less as compared to last June," Sharma said.

He added, 'The government has also increased awareness activities. All parents have to do is to see that a child does not sleep without meal. Also, one must not swallow

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Disclaimer:-This is a Media Alert and pending verification.

**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,  
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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litchi seeds or eat semi-ripe litchis. If a child sleeps without meal, s\he registers drop in glucose level. This alters the activity of nervous system and the child dies. We have deployed health workers at the periphery to spread this awareness."

Meanwhile, Vellore-based paediatrician and epidemiologist Dr T Jacob John recently submitted a report to the state government regarding the cause of AES. But Dr Sharma said, "We are yet to be fully convinced by it."

Dr John has said in his paper that litchi consumption by 'undernourished children', especially after prolonged fasting, triggers hypoglycaemic encephalopathy (drop in glucose levels) that manifests during the early hours of morning. Besides, litchi contains a toxin, called methylene cyclopropyl-glycine (MCPG), that causes hypoglycaemia in children, which leads to death. The highest amount of MCPG was found in litchi seeds followed by semi-ripe litchis.

However, Dr Sharma says this is just one school of thought. Incidentally, AIIMS-Patna had called it a waterborne disease and virus carried through the Saryu in UP and Bihar.

But what worries policymakers more is another AIIMS-Patna's study that says 18% kids who survived AES became disabled. Out of total disabled cases, 13% had severe disability while 22% had moderate disability. Dr C M Singh says in the study that even those who survive AES need proper follow-up to avoid disability.

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