

Action plan to prevent the spread of Zika virus

*217. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a warning regarding spread of Zika virus in Asian countries including India;
- (b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to prevent the virus from spreading in India;
- (c) whether the country has the infrastructure and expertise for testing and treatment of persons infected with Zika virus; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, how Government proposes to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) World Health Organization (WHO) had declared Zika virus disease to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 1st February, 2016, based on circumstantial evidence that neurological disorders, including microcephaly and Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS), are linked to Zika virus infection. Emergency Committee, constituted under International Health Regulations by WHO in its 5th meeting recommended that Zika virus and associated consequences remain a significant enduring public health challenge, but no longer represent a public health emergency. Based on the recommendation of the Emergency Committee, World Health Organization declared the end of Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 18th November, 2016.

(b) Government of India has taken adequate measures to prevent/control Zika virus disease outbreak. An action plan has been prepared to manage Zika virus disease and shared with all the States/UTs. The representative of the State Governments/UTs has been briefed on the action plan. As per the action plan, Government will put in place all such public health measures for containment of local outbreak thus preventing the virus from spreading in India. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been reviewing the preventive measures against Zika virus disease on a regular basis.

(c) and (d) Our country has the necessary infrastructure and expertise for testing and treatment of persons infected with Zika virus disease. 23 laboratories have been identified and strengthened to test Zika virus disease. The details are given in Statement (*See below*). In majority of cases, Zika virus disease is a mild febrile illness which requires only symptomatic treatment for fever, body-ache etc. Few patients will have

neurological complications that can be managed in intensive care units of Central Government and State Government hospitals and medical colleges.

Statement

List of Laboratories strengthened for diagnosis of Zika virus disease

1. King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2. NIV Field Unit, Allapuzha, Kerala
3. Manipal Centre for Virus Research, KMC, Manipal
4. BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad
5. Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar
6. National Institute for Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata
7. King George Medical University, Lucknow
8. Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh
9. Regional Medical Research Centre, Jabalpur
10. Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Education and Research, Puducherry
11. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, (VRDL)
12. Desert Medical Research Centre, Jodhpur (ICMR)
13. Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, Kerala
14. Sri Venkatswara Institute of Medical Science, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (VRDL)
15. Gandhi medical College, Secunderabad, Telangana (VRDL)
16. Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Agamkuan, Patna (VRDL)
17. All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (VRDL)
18. The Tamil Nadu Dr. M. G. R Medical university, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
19. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
20. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
21. Kasturba Medical Hospital, Mumbai
22. National Institute of Virology, Pune
23. National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi