

Statement-II

Total month-wise tests conducted from March to August, 2020

Month	Total Number of Tests Conducted in the Month
March	33,330
April	8,64,517
May	29,37,284
June	49,93,422
July	1,05,32,288
August	2,39,66,859
TOTAL TESTS (till 18th September)	6,17,33,533

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

1049. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people are suffering from Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver disease (NAFLD) which is emerging as an important cause of liver disease in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such large number of people affected by NAFLD;

(c) whether Government proposes to include NAFLD in the National Health Programme and provide financial assistance to such needy patients, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government for facilitating affordable treatment of NAFLD and other liver related diseases and also development of diagnostic and treatment technology for NAFLD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (d) The exact number of people suffering from Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases (NAFLD) in the country is

not known. However, as per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study - India: Health of the Nation's States - contribution of cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases to Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) has increased from 0.9% in 1990 to 1.6% in 2016. Risk of developing NAFLD is influenced by several environmental and metabolic factors including physical inactivity, junk foods and high calorie foods, obesity, type-2 diabetes etc.

Public Health and Hospitals is a state subject. Central Government however supplements efforts of States/UTs. Healthcare services for various diseases including liver diseases, are provided through public health facilities at different level. Treatment in Government health facilities is either free or subsidised. Further, under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) financial assistance upto ₹ 15 lakh is provided for treatment of Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients, suffering from life threatening diseases, in Government hospitals. This includes financial assistance for ailments associated with liver diseases, specified in the scheme guideline.

Government is implementing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral. Under the programme, NCD Clinics are being set up at District and Community Health Center (CHC) levels, to provide services for common NCDs. Focus of the programme is on common NCDs which *inter alia* includes diabetes, which is one of the main reasons for NAFLD. Health promotion and prevention of risk factors for common NCDs in terms of healthy lifestyle and healthy eating is also one of the major activities of the programme.

National policy on telemedicine

1050. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote telemedicine with introduction of advance telemedicine tools such as wearable medical devices, tele-cardiology and tele-radiology to address the gap between urban-rural healthcare delivery and access to healthcare, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated a National Policy on Telemedicine, if so, the details thereof; and