

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

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UNSTARRED Q. No 1713  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**INCREASE IN CASES OF COVID AND ZIKA VIRUS**

**1713 SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:**

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

- a) whether it is a fact that the number of COVID-19 cases, Delta variant and Zika virus is increasing in various areas of the country
- b) if so, the details thereof and
- c) the action taken by Government to check this menace and measures taken by Government to provide adequate health related facilities to these affected and helpless people along with necessary arrangement made by Government to avoid expecting third wave of COVID-19 virus in the country?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARTI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Delta variant was detected in India through genomic sequencing of samples in October 2020. Delta variant is the dominant lineage for new cases across India presently and remains the most rapidly rising lineage globally.

To monitor the variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus, initially genomic sequencing was conducted through National Institute of Virology, Pune. Subsequently, Government of India established Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium (INSACOG) in December 2020 as a consortium of 10 laboratories of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dept. of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The network of INSACOG laboratories has since been increased to 28.

Analysis of the genomic data is a continuous and ongoing process. Periodic updates are shared with experts and states and are also regularly made available in the public domain through the media bulletin of INSACOG.

While monitoring the prevalence of variants through the network of labs, as per advise from experts it is noted that the public health measures to manage the Pandemic in the field and the treatment protocol remain the same and the five-fold strategy of test-track-treat-vaccinate and COVID appropriate behavior is to be followed at the field level.

Although Health is a state subject, Government of India has provided the required technical support and has also supported the states through logistic and financial support to further strengthen the existing health infrastructure to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the ongoing initiatives to further strengthen healthcare infrastructure include:

- A three-tier arrangement of dedicated COVID-19 health facilities [(i) COVID Care Center (CCC); (ii) Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) and (iii) Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH)] has been implemented in the country to reduce the risk of cross infection to non-COVID patients as well as to maintain continuity of non-COVID essential health services in the country.
- Government of India has roped in tertiary care hospitals under other ministries to supplement the hospital facilities. Further, many large temporary treatment facilities were established by DRDO to manage surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. The isolation bed capacity and ICU bed capacity was also enhanced continuously.
- The daily liquid medical oxygen (LMO) supply was increased by enhancement of LMO production in steel plants as well as in other LMO plants. Further, restrictions were also imposed on industrial use of oxygen.
- Online digital solutions viz. Oxygen Demand Aggregation system (ODAS) and Oxygen Digital Tracking System (ODTS) have been developed to ascertain the demand for medical oxygen from all medical facilities and to track their transportation.
- To avoid wastage of medical oxygen, guidelines on rational use of oxygen were issued on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and further revised and disseminated to States on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- To generate oxygen at the health facility level, PSA plants are being established in each district hospitals to reduce the burden on the medical oxygen supply grid across the country.
- Further, to fast-track the availability of Medical Oxygen in rural and peri-urban areas, more than 39,000 oxygen concentrators have been allocated to various States.
- A COVID Drugs Management Cell (CDMC) has been set up in the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) to oversee the management of smooth supply of drugs used in COVID-19 management.
- Action is initiated at the National level to augment production of critical drugs including import besides support in terms of equitable distribution of the critical supplies.

- A Drugs Coordination Committee (DCC) has been constituted as an institutional mechanism under Department of Pharmaceuticals for efficient decision making on all the issues with respect to COVID-19 related drugs including availability through inter-departmental consultations.
- All States/UT and State Drugs Controllers have been requested to verify stock of the drug and check other malpractices and take effective steps to curb hoarding and black marketing of Remdesivir.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare continues to provide technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19. So far more than 150 guidelines/advisories/SoPs/plans have been provided to States/UTs.
- Further COVID-19 treatment protocols and advisories both for adults as well as pediatric age groups were issued and widely disseminated to promote rational use of drugs and oxygen.
- Under the National COVID Vaccination Program, Government of India is procuring vaccines and providing them free of cost to States and UTs. As on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, a total of about 48.40 crore doses have been supplied to States/UTs from all sources i.e Government of India's Covid vaccine supply free of cost to all States/UTs, and Private Hospitals procured Covid vaccine.

Union Government has provided financial support to States/UTs for ramping up Health Infrastructure and support all aspects of management of COVID-19.

- During the F.Y. 2019-20. funds to the tune of Rs.1113.21 crore was released to the States/UTs under NHM.
- In September 2020, the Union Government allowed the states to spend maximum 35% of annual allocation of funds under SDRF for the financial year 2019-20. The ceiling was further enhanced to 50% during the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for containment measures of COVID-19.
- During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs.8257.88 crore has been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package.
- In addition, 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II' has also been approved by the Cabinet with Rs 23,123 crores (with Rs. 15,000 Cr as Central Component & Rs 8,123 Crore as State component) and is to be implemented from 1st July 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. So far Rs. 1827.78 crore has been released to States/UTs in 2021-22 under ECRP Phase-II in FY 2021-22.

Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by bite of Aedes mosquitoes. It is usually a mild disease manifesting as fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome. The disease was first reported in India in

2017. State/UT and year wise details of Zika virus disease cases in the country as on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 is at **Annexure**.

Government of India has taken the following measures against Zika virus disease in the country:

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare prepared and widely disseminated Zika action plan detailing control and containment activities to be followed in the event of an outbreak.
- Union Ministry of Health conducts vector survey through Regional Offices of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the International Airports and their surroundings in the country.
- Central Cross-checking Organization (CCCO), NVBDCP, GoI carries out entomological survey in the assigned International Airports of the country to maintain Aedes breeding free status.
- Advisories are issued to all State/UTs for intensification of vector control activities.
- Availability of insecticides and functioning of fogging machine status is monitored through monthly reports from the States.
- Surveillance for microcephaly in newborns is being undertaken under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).
- Central multi-disciplinary teams have been deployed to investigate and support State health departments in control and containment activities during all these outbreaks. In the current outbreak in Kerala too, a multi-disciplinary Central Team visited Kerala from 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 in view of the Zika Virus Disease Outbreak investigation.

**Annexure**

State/UT and year wise details of Zika virus disease cases in the country as on **1st August 2021**

<b>State/UT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	3	1	0	0	0
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	0	130	0	0	0
<b>Rajasthan</b>	0	159	0	0	0
<b>Kerala</b>	0	0	0	0	64
<b>Maharashtra</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>