

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 241**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2024/ SRAVANA 2, 1946 (SAKA)

BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS IN THE COUNTRY

241. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of increasing threat of biological attacks in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been contemplated by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in consultation with the State Governments, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other entities, to tackle any situation of biological attacks in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including any strategy to provide medical treatment to large section of people in above said situation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (c): At present no specific inputs regarding threat of biological attacks are available with the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the Government is fully prepared to respond to any biological attacks in the country. In order to effectively respond to any such crises or disasters, Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated. In addition, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has published guidelines on biological disasters including bio-warfare and bio-terrorism. The

guidelines have identified the bio-warfare/bio-terrorism agents, characteristics of these agents, epidemiological clues to identify outbreak of disease caused by them, laboratory identification and their management including prevention and treatment. The Battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have also been trained to deal with such crises.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), being the nodal Ministry for biological disaster, has a Crisis Management Plan for biological disasters was last updated on October 2023 and has been shared with concerned stakeholders. The MoHFW has also finalized and circulated Model Crisis Management Plans for biological disasters to all States/Union Territories to serve as template for preparation of their own respective crisis management plans. As health is a State subject, the primary responsibility of detecting and responding to biological events of national concerns vests with the State Government. The MoHFW supports the State with guidance, outbreak investigation, laboratory diagnosis, advising on appropriate public health measures and providing logistics support in terms of human and material resources, wherever required.