

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 930
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2024**

BSL 3 LABS IN PUNJAB

930. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:-

- a) whether Government is aware of the plight of the people of Punjab in absence of BSL 3 labs as samples have to be sent to other States for testing which is causing delay in treatment;
- b) if so, whether Government will consider setting up of BSL 3 labs in Punjab; and
- c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c). Public Health and Hospitals is a State Subject and the responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system lies with the respective State/ UT Governments. Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Platform (IDSP) 691 public laboratories from Punjab are testing samples and reporting on Integrated Disease Surveillance Platform. Additionally, one regional Virus Research And Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL), equipped with BSL-3 facility has been established at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh, which caters to the States of Punjab, Haryana, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Regional VRDL at PGIMER, Chandigarh, is well connected with other Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) located in Punjab State e.g. Government Medical College Amritsar, Government Medical College Patiala, Government Medical College Faridkot, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bathinda.

The BSL-3 facility at PGIMER Chandigarh is 24X7 available to provide services during any emergent situation. Furthermore, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has set up two mobile BSL-3 labs for rapid response to outbreaks.
