

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**

**PREPARATION AGAINST FUTURE PANDEMICS IN THE COUNTRY**

**19 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:**

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state

- (a) the measures/steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prepare against future pandemics in the country;
- (b) the details of financial assistance extended to the States including Tamil Nadu in tackling pandemics; and
- (c) the details of the outbreak of diseases reported across the country including Tamil Nadu during the last two years?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAP RAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19 \* FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

Prevention of and preparedness against pandemics is shared global responsibility. In order to better prepare against future pandemics/public health emergencies in the country, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides requisite support to States/UTs to enhance their capabilities.

To enhance disease surveillance activities, the Ministry has strengthened the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), which allows for a decentralized system of response through trained multi-disciplinary Rapid Response Team (RRTs) to institute requisite public health control and containment measures. IDSP, through its Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) has also been strengthened to use advanced data modelling and data analytical tools, which has features for real-time data reporting and is accessible at all levels.

In terms of laboratory strengthening, under IDSP, States have strengthened laboratories at district and State levels. Further, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has established a network of more than 150 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) for strengthening of nation-wide network of laboratories for timely laboratory based diagnosis of pathogens. National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune is the apex laboratory for detection and confirmation of pathogens. With the view to strengthen the diagnostic capacities for bacteria, fungi and parasites, some VRDLs have been identified for upgradation as Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories. ICMR has developed two mobile Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratories to provide essential on-site diagnostic services during outbreaks, especially in remote areas.

To undertake integrated and holistic research and development across human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors, a National Institute for One Health has been approved in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

With the long-term goal to better prepare our country against public health emergencies, Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) has been launched with the intent to enhance the capacity of primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities/systems and institutes for identifying and managing any new and emerging diseases.

Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to public health emergencies like pandemics. During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs. 8473.73 crore have been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package (ECRP-I) for health infrastructure strengthening, expansion of laboratory network, surveillance, procurement of medical logistics etc. Under India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package-Phase II, a sum of Rs. 12,740.22 crore support was provided to States/UTs for ramping up health infrastructure and provision of medical logistics. Further, a release of approximately Rs. 4791.67 crore has been provided as central release of grants under PM-ABHIM (since April 2021-22 till date) for better public health preparedness through Critical Care Blocks at Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, Integrated Public Health Laboratories, etc.

Financial support of Rs. 893.74 crore, Rs. 479.59 crore and Rs. 615.95 crore was provided to State Government of Tamil Nadu under ECRP-I, ECRP-II and PM-ABHIM respectively.

As per information provided by States/UTs to IDSP, 1,862 incidents of disease outbreaks such as Acute Diarrhoeal Disease, Food poisoning, Dengue etc. have been reported in 2023 and 2,947 incidents have been reported in 2024 (till 15 December, 2024). Of these, Tamil Nadu has reported 61 such incidents in 2023 and 195 in 2024 (till 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2024).

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भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण विभाग

राज्य सभा  
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या: 19\*  
04 फरवरी, 2025 को पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्न का उत्तर

देश में भविष्य में आने वाली महामारियों से निपटने की तैयारी

19\*. डा. कनिमोझी एनवीएन सोमू:

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) सरकार द्वारा देश में भविष्य में महामारियों से निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय किए गए हैं/कदम उठाए गए हैं अथवा क्या उपाय किए जाने/कदम उठाए जाने का विचार है;
- (ख) महामारियों से निपटने के लिए तमिलनाडु सहित राज्यों को दी गई वित्तीय सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है; और
- (ग) विगत दो वर्षों के दौरान तमिलनाडु सहित देश भर में बीमारियों के प्रकोप का ब्यौरा क्या है?

उत्तर

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रताप राव जाधव)

(क) से (ग): विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

## दिनांक 04 फरवरी, 2025 के लिए राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न सं.19\* के उत्तर में उल्लिखित विवरण

महामारियों की रोकथाम और इनके विरुद्ध तैयारी साझा रूप से वैश्विक जिम्मेदारी है। देश में भविष्य में महामारियों/जन स्वास्थ्य आपात स्थितियों के विरुद्ध बेहतर तैयारी करने के लिए केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को अपनी क्षमताएं बढ़ाने के लिए अपेक्षित सहायता प्रदान करता है।

रोग निगरानी संबंधी क्रियाकलापों को बढ़ाने के लिए, मंत्रालय ने एकीकृत रोग निगरानी कार्यक्रम (आईडीएसपी) को सुदृढ़ किया है। इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत जन स्वास्थ्य संबंधी अपेक्षित नियंत्रण और रोकथाम संबंधी उपाय करने के लिए प्रशिक्षित बहु-विषयक त्वरित अनुक्रिया दल (आरआरटी) के माध्यम से अनुक्रिया का विकेंद्रीकृत तंत्र बनाया गया है। आईडीएसपी को एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य सूचना प्लेटफॉर्म (आईएचआईपी) के माध्यम से उन्नत डेटा मॉडलिंग और डेटा विश्लेषणात्मक टूल्स का प्रयोग करने के लिए भी सुदृढ़ किया गया है, जिसमें रियल टाइम रिपोर्टिंग की विशेषताएं हैं और यह सभी स्तरों पर एक्सेस किया जा सकता है।

आईडीएसपी के तहत प्रयोगशाला सुदृढीकरण की दृष्टि से राज्यों ने जिला और राज्य स्तर पर प्रयोगशालाओं को सुदृढ़ किया है। इसके अलावा, भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएमआर) ने रोगजनकों के समय पर प्रयोगशाला आधारित निदान के लिए प्रयोगशालाओं के राष्ट्रव्यापी नेटवर्क के सुदृढीकरण के लिए 150 से अधिक विषाणु अनुसंधान और नैदानिक प्रयोगशालाओं (वीआरडीएल) का नेटवर्क स्थापित किया है। राष्ट्रीय विषाणु विज्ञान संस्थान (एनआईवी), पुणे रोगजनकों का पता लगाने और इनकी पुष्टि करने के लिए एक शीर्ष प्रयोगशाला है। जीवाणु, फफूंदी और परजीवियों के लिए नैदानिक क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करने के विचार से, कुछ वीआरडीएल को संक्रामक रोग अनुसंधान और नैदानिक प्रयोगशालाओं के रूप में उन्नत करने के लिए चिह्नित किया गया है। आईसीएमआर ने विशेषकर दूर-दराज क्षेत्रों में, प्रकोपों के दौरान अनिवार्य ऑन साइट नैदानिक सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए दो मोबाइल बायोसेफ्टी लेवल 3 (बीएसएल-3) प्रयोगशालाएं तैयार की हैं।

मानव, पशु, पादप और पर्यावरण संबंधी स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रों में एकीकृत और समग्र अनुसंधान और विकास कार्य करने के लिए नागपुर, महाराष्ट्र में 'वन हेल्थ' हेतु राष्ट्रीय संस्थान मंजूर किया गया है।

जन स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आपात स्थितियों के विरुद्ध हमारे देश को बेहतर रूप से तैयार करने के दूरगामी लक्ष्य के साथ, प्रधानमंत्री आयुष्मान भारत स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना मिशन (पीएम-एबीएचआईएम) की शुरुआत की गई है, जिसका उद्देश्य किन्हीं नए और उभरते रोगों की पहचान करने और इनके प्रबंधन के लिए प्राथमिक,

माध्यमिक और विशिष्ट स्वास्थ्य परिचर्या सुविधा केंद्रों/प्रणालियों और संस्थाओं की क्षमताओं का संवर्द्धन करना है।

महामारी जैसी जन स्वास्थ्य आपात स्थितियों के कारण उत्पन्न किसी भी आपातकालीन स्थिति से निपटने के लिए स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के सुदृढीकरण के उद्देश्य से राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को वित्त पोषण सहायता प्रदान की गई है। वित्त वर्ष 2020-21 के दौरान, स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना सुदृढीकरण, प्रयोगशाला नेटवर्क विस्तार, सर्विलांस, चिकित्सीय साजो-सामान के प्रापण आदि के लिए भारत कोविड-19 आपातकालीन अनुक्रिया और स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की तैयारी संबंधी पैकेज (ईसीआरपी-I) की ओर से राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को 8473.73 करोड़ रु. की निधियां जारी की गईं। भारत कोविड-19 आपातकालीन अनुक्रिया और स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की तैयारी संबंधी पैकेज चरण-II के तहत, राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना के सुदृढीकरण और चिकित्सीय साजो सामान के प्रावधान के लिए 12,740.22 करोड़ रु. की सहायता प्रदान की गई थी। इसके अलावा, पीएम-एबीएचआईएम के तहत (अप्रैल, 2021-2022 से अब तक) मेडिकल कॉलेजों और जिला अस्पतालों में क्रिटिकल केयर ब्लॉकों, एकीकृत जन स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशालाओं आदि के माध्यम से जन स्वास्थ्य की बेहतर तैयारी के लिए अनुदानों के केंद्रीय हिस्से के रूप में लगभग 4791.67 करोड़ रु. की राशि जारी की गई है।

तमिलनाडु राज्य सरकार को ईसीआरपी-I, ईसीआरपी-II, और पीएम-एबीएचआईएम के तहत क्रमशः 893.74 करोड़ रुपये, 479.59 करोड़ रुपये और 615.95 करोड़ रुपये की वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की गई थी।

राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों द्वारा आईडीएसपी को प्रदान की गई जानकारी के अनुसार, वर्ष 2023 में तीक्ष्ण अतिसार रोग, खाद्य विषाक्तता, डेंगू आदि जैसे रोग प्रकोपों की 1,862 घटनाओं तथा वर्ष 2024 में (15 दिसंबर, 2024 तक) 2,947 घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट मिली है। इनमें से तमिलनाडु में वर्ष 2023 में ऐसी 61 घटनाओं और वर्ष 2024 में (15 दिसंबर, 2024 तक) 195 घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट मिली है।

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DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: Sir, Covid-19 pandemic was the worst public health emergency witnessed in the recent years. Are we ready to tackle any such pandemic in the future is a billion dollar question. To take effective timely action, a pandemic preparedness and emergency response fund needs to be established. The PM CARES Fund was registered as a public charitable trust under the Registration Act, 1908, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, aimed to create a financial reserve to address health emergencies. And it is still receiving donations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, the total donations received and spent till date, and steps taken by the Government to pass new legislation and to formulate internationally legally binding rules and regulations.

**श्री प्रतापराव जाधव:** उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से बताना चाहूंगा कि महामारी की रोकथाम की तैयारी के बारे में तमिलनाडु राज्य एवं देश की तैयारी के बारे में यहाँ जो प्रश्न पूछा गया था, उसके लिए केंद्र सरकार और हमारे स्वास्थ्य विभाग के माध्यम से यहाँ पर योजनाएं चलाई जा रही हैं। यह एकीकृत रोग निगरानी कार्यक्रम (आईडीएसपी) के माध्यम से है। महोदय, दूसरी योजना त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया दल (आरआरटी) है। इस प्रकार से एकीकृत प्रणाली भी मौजूद है। महोदय, ऐसी जो भी महामारी आती है, उसकी रोकथाम के लिए हम वहाँ पर सरकार की तरफ से, राज्य सरकार की मदद से बहुत सारे उपक्रम कर रहे हैं, जिससे महामारी को तुरंत काबू में किया जा सके।

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: Sir, it was about the PM CARES Fund. He has not answered the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Nadda ji wants to say something.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, I would like to enlighten the hon. Member that the question does not relate to PM CARES Fund. It relates to the preparedness for the pandemic and the answer given by the Minister was very much in detail which enunciates the preparedness for any type of pandemic. India has proven under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi that we have got a very robust system to address the issue of any pandemic which comes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: Sir, I did not get the answer. Nobody knows what happened to the PM CARES Fund.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: Sir, the WHO has warned the world that 75 per cent of future public health threats are likely to be zoonotic threats, which would be due to emerging, re-emerging and new pathogens. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Union Government has allocated any funds to establish new state-of-the-art facilities for this. Have you taken any steps to improve core capacities for screening, sample collection and quarantine facilities at the international airports and seaports and established national biosafety, biosecurity network to defend against the biological threats emanating from abroad through land, sea and air?

**श्री प्रतापराव जाधव:** उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्या जी ने यहां पर जो प्रश्न पूछा, मैं उसके संबंध में कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे जो प्रवेश बिंदु हैं, वहां एयरपोर्ट के ऊपर 33 मौजूदा स्थानों पर पब्लिक हैल्थ यूनिट्स को सुदृढ़ करने का काम जारी है। बहुत सारी जगहों पर काम पूरा भी हो गया है। इसके माध्यम से एयरपोर्ट, पोर्ट और लैंड बॉर्डर सभी जगहों पर बाहर से जो भी विदेशी नागरिक आते हैं, उन सभी की जांच वहां पर की जाती है और आवश्यकता के अनुसार उनको वहां पर क्वारंटाइन करने की व्यवस्था भी की गई है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit Patra. Not present. Shri Saket Gokhale. Not present. Shri A.A. Rahim.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, prevention of future pandemic is very important. I do believe that studying the impact of COVID-19 is crucial to preventing future pandemics. There is a high level of concern in the society about the death rate among people who have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. Has the Government conducted any study on the aftermath of vaccination and the impact of COVID-19? If not, is the Government willing to conduct such a study?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, it is an opportunity to explain to the hon. Members and the House itself that as far as emerging pandemics are concerned, we have got a very robust system. We have got the National Centre for Disease Control. It oversees and keeps surveillance over such diseases. It is the Apex body which takes care of the diseases, the pathogens and other emerging virus mutation which takes place. Under the NCDC, we have got an integrated disease surveillance programme, a platform for disease surveillance, and we have got Rapid Response

Teams (RRTs) which are there in the States. We have got decentralised multidisciplinary teams for health control and containment. We have got an integrated health information platform where we have advanced data with analysis and analytical data and data modelling tools. We give a real-time reporting for all the emerging pandemics or where there are chances of having any pandemic. The Indian Council for Medical Research has got 150 labs. We have got viral research diagnostic laboratories. Ten viral research diagnostic laboratories are there in Tamil Nadu itself. We have got the world-class National Institute of Virology in Pune. The biosafety level is four. We have got two BSL-3 labs in Tamil Nadu itself. We have got other diagnostic facilities. We are upgrading the virology labs to BSL-3 levels. So we have got a very robust system. Wherever any pandemic or any chances of pandemics are there, these laboratories confirm what type of mutation is taking place and what type of medicine or what type of treatment is to be given. That is one thing. He mentioned about emerging pandemics. Prime Minister Modi has taken one step forward and now we have got National One Health Mission, NOHM. This National One Health Mission includes many things because health is at the receiving end. We get diseases because of pesticides; we get diseases because of environment; we get diseases because of the nature of the plants which is changing; we get diseases because of the medicines which are being given to the animals. What is the impact altogether? So, for that, we have also started the National One Health Mission which has been started by Prime Minister Modi at Nagpur with a cost of Rs.112 crore. We also had a test which we call as Vishnu Yuddh Abhyas. That was done in Ajmer. It was a mock test just to see whether our health system is prepared for it or not. So, we are very vigilant on that account.

As far as the finance part is concerned, for COVID-19, the Emergency Response Health System Preparedness Package in 2020-21 was Rs. 8,473 crore. The Emergency Response Health System Preparedness Package No.2 had Rs.12,740 crore. As you asked about the capacity building, under the PM-ABHIM scheme, we are spending Rs.64,180 crore; just for the preparedness component, we are spending Rs.4,791 crore and to Tamil Nadu, we are giving Rs.615 crore for critical care blocks and for the integrated public health system.

Sir, I would also like to mention this. You asked about the diseases. Now, here, I would like to make it very clear that there is a difference between an outbreak of a pandemic and an incidence. Sometimes, the States report to have an outbreak which is not an outbreak; it is an incidence which has taken place. So, I would also like to put it on record that the incidence of disease for dengue, for food poisoning, for diarrhoeal diseases, etc., in 2023 has been 1,862 and 61 in Tamil Nadu. Till

December 2024, 2,947 incidents have taken place, not outbreak, and, 195 incidents have taken place in Tamil Nadu and we continuously support them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Fourth supplementary, Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please Mr. Rahim, it is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA: Sir, recently, we are witnessing new and mutated diseases all over the world. My question to the hon. Minister would be this. Has the Ministry put any systems in place and what technologies are being used for detecting and evaluating new epidemics that are coming from inside and outside the country?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I have explained in detail that we have got a very robust system. Wherever we find that something unnatural is happening, it is reported and it is reported by the concerned State to the Centre. We have got the top quality laboratories which are taking care of it. So, we respond accordingly and we have been responding. Sir, I can take his question if you say so.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not here now; he has gone. Now, Shri Sanjeev Aroraji; fifth and the last supplementary on this question.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister a question. As it is regarding future pandemic, lot of R&D is involved to take care of any future pandemic and, as on date, our R&D budget has been reduced after COVID subsided. We should not reduce; we should increase so that we are well prepared always. My request is that a lot of R&D is involved to take care of any future pandemic. As on date, our R&D budget has been reduced after Covid subsided. We should not reduce it but we should increase it so that we are always well-prepared. My question is this. Are we planning to invest more in R&D? It will help in future pandemics and other major diseases also.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, as far as the Health Department is concerned, I have said that we have got a very robust and vigilant system. We have got a system where the real-time reporting takes place and we respond accordingly. As the hon. Member has asked about the R&D, it does not fall under the Health Ministry. Certainly, for Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the fund has been

increased. You will be happy to note that during Covid-19, the ICMR has played a very important role for making of vaccine. So, we are spending on ICMR. We are also encouraging the private partners. ICMR is working with the private institutions also. The pharmaceutical department is also taking care where we are inviting parties and the private industry to participate with us for the R&D. So, there is no dearth of money. We are giving projects, sufficient funds are being allocated by hon. Finance Minister for R&D work and we are going forward in that direction.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q.No.20, Shrimati Kiran Choudhry.