

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 294  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025**

**HMPV CASES IN THE COUNTRY**

**294. Ms. SUSHMITA DEV:**

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

- (a) whether there is any indication of potential transmission of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) to the country;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to monitor the situation in the country regarding the outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China;
- (c) whether there are any preparedness measures in place to handle potential cases, particularly among vulnerable populations, given the rise in HMPV cases in China; and
- (d) whether Government has issued any public health advisories regarding Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) for healthcare providers and the public to prevent the spread of this virus in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) has been present globally since 2001. The data from Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) does not indicate any unusual rise in Influenza Like Illness (ILI)/Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases anywhere in the country and also corroborated by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) sentinel surveillance data.

(b) to (d): The Government has taken several steps to monitor the spread and also taken several preparedness measures to handle potential cases which are enclosed at Annexure.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 294 REGARDING "HMPV CASES IN THE COUNTRY"**

- Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) has been activated at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) since 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 for regular monitoring of HMPV situation. Daily Situational Report (SitRep) is shared to the concerned stakeholders.
- States/UTs have been advised to be vigilant and send respiratory samples of hospitalized SARI cases to designated Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) for testing and sequencing of positive samples.
- A robust surveillance system for Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) for Influenza is already in place in India through both ICMR and IDSP networks.
- The states have been advised to enhance Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness among the population regarding prevention of transmission of the virus through simple measures such as washing hands often with soap and water; avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands; avoid close contact with people who are exhibiting symptoms of the disease; cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing etc.
- Government conducted a preparedness drill across the country and it is ascertained that the health system is adequately prepared to deal with the seasonal increase in respiratory illness.
- Several meetings were held at the level of Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Director General of Health Services, Joint Monitoring Group with various stakeholders and reviewed the situation of respiratory illnesses in India and the status regarding the HMPV cases. The stakeholders included Department of Health Research, DGHS, Health Secretaries and officials of States, experts from Integrated Disease Surveillance Platform (IDSP), NCDC, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology (NIV) and State Surveillance Units of IDSP.
- States have been advised to strengthen and review the ILI/SARI surveillance.

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