

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2022**

MEASURES TAKEN TO COUNTER MONKEYPOX VIRUS

**1541. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:
SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:
SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:**

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Monkeypox has symptoms similar to smallpox, and also that the disease can spread through respiratory droplets as in COVID-19; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken or being taken by Government to invest resources in stockpiling essential drugs and testing kits for the detection of Monkeypox virus?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) and (b): Smallpox disease no longer occurs naturally since it has been eradicated globally. Monkeypox is a self-limited disease presenting with fever, intense headache, lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes), back pain, myalgia (muscle aches) and rash which tends to be more concentrated on the face and extremities. The symptoms of monkeypox generally last from 2 to 4 weeks. The disease is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) declared outbreak of Monkeypox disease as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 23rd July 2022, the global trajectory of Monkeypox continues to show a declining trend since mid-August, 2022.

In terms of building diagnostic capacities for disease diagnosis, 20 ICMR-network laboratories have been operationalized across the country for testing for Monkeypox disease.

Most cases detected till date have been mild and treatment for the disease remains largely supportive. As per WHO, investigational drugs are used in some countries in clinical research settings only.
