

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 615  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07 FEBRUARY, 2023**

**THYROID DISORDER AMONG WOMEN**

**615. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU :**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that every third woman in the country is affected by thyroid disorder, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any effective measures to address the issue of increasing incidence of the said disorder among women, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fact that thyroid disorder increases the risk of cancer, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action plan to raise awareness regarding thyroid disorders in the country and the steps taken in this regard?

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

- (a) The prevalence of self-reported goitre or thyroid disorder is 2.9% in National Family Health Survey -V [NFHS V (2019-2021)].
- (b) In order to prevent and control Nutritional Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs), Government of India implements National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Program in the country for the entire population. The important measures taken up by the government are:-
  - 1. To ensure supply of iodized salt in place of common salt in the entire country.
  - 2. Financial assistance to all States/UTs for establishment of State Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Cell and State IDD Monitoring Laboratory, conducting District IDD surveys/resurveys, Health Education and publicity to create awareness about IDD, promoting consumption of adequately

iodized salt and monitoring of iodine content of salt through salt testing kit at the household/community level.

3. Monitoring of quality of iodized salt at production and distribution level.
4. Standards and regulations for iodized salt were prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, regulations 2.9.30 (1) (2) (3) of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives), Regulation 2011 prescribes the standard for edible common salt including iodized salt. Regulation 2.3.12 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales), Regulation 2011 restricts the sale of common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized.
5. As an outcome of the programme, the use/consumption of iodized salt at household level has reached to 94.3% as per NFHS-5 report (2019-21).
6. National guidelines for screening of hypothyroidism during pregnancy issued by Maternal Health Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India in the year 2014 aim for early diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders during pregnancy.

c) As per World Health Organization (WHO) fact sheet (03 February, 2022), common causes of thyroid cancer include:

- Physical carcinogens such as ultraviolet and ionizing radiation
- Chemical carcinogens such as asbestos, component of tobacco smoke, alcohol, aflatoxin (a food contaminant), and arsenic (a drinking water contaminant); and
- Biological carcinogens such as infections from certain viruses, bacteria or parasites.
- Other than iodine deficiency, sedentary lifestyle and food habits may be associated with thyroid cancer.

Whether thyroid disorder itself can cause cancer has not been substantiated.

d) Information Education and Communication activities to generate awareness about Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) and importance of consumption of iodized salt among population in all the States/UTs through Prasar Bharti (All India Radio & Doordarshan) and publishing of IDD messages on newspapers/Railway reservation tickets through Directorate of Advertisement & Visual Publicity.

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