

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 920  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2024**

**TIMELY DETECTION OF THALASSEMIA**

**920. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether Government is working on the proposed integration of compulsory Thalassemia testing into existing reproductive and child health programs under the National Health Mission(NHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken measures to encourage States to adopt and expand screening and testing for Thalassemia; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): Thalassemia is one of the inherited disorders of red blood cells that comes under the category of Haemoglobinopathies. Under National Health Mission (NHM), comprehensive guidelines on Prevention and Control of Hemoglobinopathies in India – Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Disease and other variant Hemoglobin (2016) had been shared with States/UTs to assist the States for screening and management of Hemoglobinopathies including Thalassemia.

The primary responsibility of management of Thalassemia along with raising awareness lies with the respective State Governments. However, under NHM, support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare system including support for prevention and management of Thalassemia at public healthcare facilities, screening of pregnant women & school children, based on the proposals submitted by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans.

Monitoring and follow up is done and the data of thalassemia for screening is entered regularly on the National Portal. As on 24/07/2024, a total of 9,07,204 individuals have been reported as screened and 2597 individuals have been confirmed as diseased for Thalassemia.

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