

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2024**

WHO GLOBAL HEPATITIS REPORT 2024

1704: SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether, as per the WHO Global Hepatitis Report 2024, India has the world's second highest prevalence of viral hepatitis cases with 2.9 crore hepatitis B cases;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the low diagnosis and treatment is major cause for high number of cases;
- (d) if not, the other causes;
- (e) whether all the hepatitis infected people are receiving free treatment for the disease;
- (f) if not, whether Government will provide free treatment to hepatitis patients under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP); and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): No, the data of WHO Global Health Report 2024 is based on modelling and is not the actual surveillance data. As per the 2023 Seroprevalence report generated under the National Program for Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP), National Health Mission (NHM.), the seroprevalence of hepatitis B is found to be 0.85% (95% CI 0.85-0.86). Accordingly, the estimated number of persons likely to be infected with hepatitis B is 1.18 crores.

(e) to (g): The National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) was launched in 2018 and is offering treatment services for hepatitis B since 2019. The government provides diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B free of cost under the program on the basis of requirements of need of an infested patient under treatment .
