

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1723
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024**

ENCOURAGEMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

1723. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the steps Government has implemented to encourage State Governments to enhance health research activities and to incentivize private hospitals to engage in research initiatives as on date;
- (b) whether Government is considering the creation of a specific web portal for healthcare professionals to share their innovative treatment protocols and practical medical research, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is exploring the possibility of analyzing these research activities and annually recognize and reward outstanding research papers appropriately?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Government has implemented many measures to enhance health research activities in States and to incentivize private sector to engage in research initiatives.

Some of these are given below:

- i) The Department of Health Research (DHR) has undertaken Human Resource and Capacity Development Scheme with an aim to establish a pool of talented health research personnel in the country by upgrading skills of faculties of Medical Colleges/Institutes, mid-career scientists, medical & non-medical students, etc. by specialized training in priority areas of health research, through the different scheme components.
- ii) A network of Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) has been established to strengthen the state health research infrastructure, particularly for research on infectious diseases. VRDLs provide platforms for conducting high-quality health research and act as resource centers for diagnostics and surveillance. As on date, 163 VRDLs have been sanctioned. The VRDL scheme provides training for medical professionals, lab technicians, and researchers in state health systems to enhance their expertise in diagnostic methods and research.

iii) DHR has also established Multi-disciplinary Research Units (MRUs) in Medical Colleges and Research Institutes across the country and Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs) in rural areas for improving the quality of health research, especially catering to the states and local health priorities. As on date, 117 MRUs and 35 MRHRUs have been sanctioned.

iv) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that under its Extramural Research Programme, it provides financial assistance to the Indian scientists/healthcare professionals to pursue research in the fields of medicine, public health, and allied disciplines at various central government, state government and private institutes/hospitals/ medical colleges.

v) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has undertaken MedTech Mitra initiative aiming to foster development of affordable and accessible indigenous Medical Devices/ In-Vitro Diagnostics by providing strategic handholding support to MedTech innovators for clinical evaluation, regulatory facilitation and uptake of new products.

(b): India Science, Technology & Innovation (ISTI) portal (<https://www.indiascienceandtechnology.gov.in/>) is a centralised repository of the content generated related to science, technology and innovation (STI) within the Indian STI ecosystem with a significant thrust on reaching out to students, scientists, researchers, youth and the general public, especially to help them choose fellowships, scholarships, funding, and startup opportunities in India. The Portal is a user-friendly destination with repositories of ongoing and recently completed research projects, developed technologies, recognised innovations, academia-industry partnerships, etc. including in the fields of medicine and life sciences. ISTI Portal focuses on bringing all stakeholders and Indian STI activities on a single online platform; helping efficient utilisation of resources. It brings together professionals and researchers to pool knowledge, expertise, wisdom and skillsets required for their research, and translation of research into products.

(c): In order to honour those having made path-breaking discoveries and advancements that significantly impact society, Government has instituted Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar. The Awards cover a wide range of scientific fields, including medicine and biological sciences.
