

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2523
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024**

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCE CENTRE OF VIROLOGY IN PUNJAB

2523. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had approved the establishment of an advanced centre of virology in Punjab in 2021, for which a 5 acre land has also been approved by ICMR team and the lease has also been executed by the State Government;
- (b) the details of action taken by the ministry to establish this advance centre of virology under the National Institute of Virology with financial outlay and timeline to complete the project;
- (c) the details of the meetings happened in this regard for the last three years; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated, sectioned and released for this virology centre?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A regional Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) having Bio Safety Level- 3 (BSL-3) facility has been established by the Department of Health Research (DHR) at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, which also caters to the state of Punjab.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that it had planned to establish the National Institute of Virology (NIV) North Zone. For this purpose, 5 acres of land situated in District SAS Nagar, had been offered to ICMR on 2.06.2021 for which an MoU had been signed with the Government of Punjab.

As per the MoU the land was to be transferred to ICMR-NIV on free hold basis. The project for establishment of the institute was entrusted to CPWD Chandigarh. It was informed by CPWD that the matter of this land was disputed and was sub-judice. Subsequently, it was decided to transfer the project to Jammu. NIV North Zone at Jammu will cater to all north Indian states including Punjab.

Additionally, DHR has sanctioned three VRDLs at Guru Gobind Singh (GGS) Medical College, Faridkot, and the Government Medical Colleges in Amritsar and Patiala.
