

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**

**PREPARATION AGAINST FUTURE PANDEMICS IN THE COUNTRY**

**19 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:**

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

- (a) the measures/steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prepare against future pandemics in the country;
- (b) the details of financial assistance extended to the States including Tamil Nadu in tackling pandemics; and
- (c) the details of the outbreak of diseases reported across the country including Tamil Nadu during the last two years?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19 \* FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

Prevention of and preparedness against pandemics is shared global responsibility. In order to better prepare against future pandemics/public health emergencies in the country, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides requisite support to States/UTs to enhance their capabilities.

To enhance disease surveillance activities, the Ministry has strengthened the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), which allows for a decentralized system of response through trained multi-disciplinary Rapid Response Team (RRTs) to institute requisite public health control and containment measures. IDSP, through its Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) has also been strengthened to use advanced data modelling and data analytical tools, which has features for real-time data reporting and is accessible at all levels.

In terms of laboratory strengthening, under IDSP, States have strengthened laboratories at district and State levels. Further, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has established a network of more than 150 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) for strengthening of nation-wide network of laboratories for timely laboratory based diagnosis of pathogens. National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune is the apex laboratory for detection and confirmation of pathogens. With the view to strengthen the diagnostic capacities for bacteria, fungi and parasites, some VRDLs have been identified for upgradation as Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories. ICMR has developed two mobile Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratories to provide essential on-site diagnostic services during outbreaks, especially in remote areas.

To undertake integrated and holistic research and development across human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors, a National Institute for One Health has been approved in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

With the long-term goal to better prepare our country against public health emergencies, Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) has been launched with the intent to enhance the capacity of primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities/systems and institutes for identifying and managing any new and emerging diseases.

Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to public health emergencies like pandemics. During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs. 8473.73 crore have been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package (ECRP-I) for health infrastructure strengthening, expansion of laboratory network, surveillance, procurement of medical logistics etc. Under India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package-Phase II, a sum of Rs. 12,740.22 crore support was provided to States/UTs for ramping up health infrastructure and provision of medical logistics. Further, a release of approximately Rs. 4791.67 crore has been provided as central release of grants under PM-ABHIM (since April 2021-22 till date) for better public health preparedness through Critical Care Blocks at Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, Integrated Public Health Laboratories, etc.

Financial support of Rs. 893.74 crore, Rs. 479.59 crore and Rs. 615.95 crore was provided to State Government of Tamil Nadu under ECRP-I, ECRP-II and PM-ABHIM respectively.

As per information provided by States/UTs to IDSP, 1,862 incidents of disease outbreaks such as Acute Diarrhoeal Disease, Food poisoning, Dengue etc. have been reported in 2023 and 2,947 incidents have been reported in 2024 (till 15 December, 2024). Of these, Tamil Nadu has reported 61 such incidents in 2023 and 195 in 2024 (till 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2024).

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