

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2832
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2025

INCREASING INCIDENCE OF HEPATITIS CASES

2832 SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India ranks second globally in Hepatitis B and C cases, with 3.5 crore infections, according to WHO report;
- (b) if so, the response of Government and health infrastructure facilities provided for dealing such large volume of cases; and
- (c) the details of preventive steps proposed to be taken by Government since it poses significant health challenges and the need for public health interventions?

ANSWER

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

(a) 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 and C is found to be 0.85% (95% CI 0.85-0.86) and 0.29% (95% CI 0.29 - 0.30) respectively. Accordingly, the estimated number of persons likely to be infected with Hepatitis B and C is 1.38 crores.

(b) & (c) Health is a State subject. The Government of India (GoI) is implementing the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) since 2018 under the aegis of National Health Mission (NHM), offering diagnostic and treatment services for Hepatitis C, A and E. The scope of the program was expanded to include diagnosis and management of Hepatitis B in 2019. As Hepatitis B is transmitted mostly from infected mother to child, it is recommended under the program to screen all pregnant women. Newborns born to Hepatitis B positive pregnant women are administered Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin (HBIG) by the program along with Hepatitis B vaccination through Universal Immunisation Program (UIP) to prevent the transmission of disease to the newborn.

The NVHCP envisages prevention of Viral Hepatitis through awareness generation and behaviour change communication. All diagnostic and treatment services are provided free of cost under NVHCP at the designated Government Health Facilities. Currently 1140 existing healthcare facilities (till December, 2024) have been strengthened as treatment sites for provisioning of services under the program across the country.
