

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2025**

NIPAH VIRUS IN KERALA

1872 SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- a) whether the Union Government is aware about the outbreak of Nipah Virus recently Palakkad district of Kerala and whether Malappuram, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kannur and Wayanad districts of the State have also been put on alert, if so the details thereof;
- b) the number of people who died due to Nipah Virus in the country during the current year till date; and
- c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to control the spread of disease due to Nipah Virus in the country particularly in Kerala along with funds allocated for the purpose?

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

(a) to (c): Out of 3 cases of Nipah Virus infection reported in Malappuram and Palakkad district in Kerala in 2025, two have succumbed to death. Malappuram, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Thrissur, and Wayanad districts are put on alert. No funds has been provided to the State for this specific purpose. However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to States/UTs under the National Health Mission (NHM), based on the proposals received.

Control measures initiated and steps taken by the Government to contain Nipah outbreaks is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872 FOR 05.08.2025 REGARDING NIPAH VIRUS IN KERALA:

Control measures initiated and steps taken by the Government to contain Nipah Disease Outbreaks:

- Through surveillance mechanism the early warning signals are captured to generate alerts, detect outbreaks in the early rising phase, outbreak investigations are conducted and timely appropriate measures are undertaken by the respective public health agencies to control and prevent the further spread of the disease.
- A National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT), comprising of experts from Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Forest & Wildlife and human health, and Bat survey team were deployed for comprehensive assessment and review of these outbreaks. Malappuram and Palakkad, with Kozhikode, Thrissur, and Wayanad districts were placed on alert.
- Whole genome sequencing was performed on clinical specimens from all positive cases. This genomic surveillance aids in understanding the circulating Nipah virus strain, which belong to similar genotypes of 2019 and 2021 outbreaks in Kerala.
- Beyond the immediate outbreak response, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) maintained continued support and collaborative engagement with both Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) throughout the year, ensuring training, a steady supply of Personal protective equipment (PPE) and diagnostic reagents. This sustained effort underscores a commitment to strengthening regional capacities for infectious disease preparedness and response.
- The State and Central Government health officials worked to enhance public and healthcare professional awareness regarding Nipah virus disease. These initiatives ensured that individuals were made aware on the signs and symptoms of the disease and understood the appropriate actions to take if they suspected an infection in themselves or others.
- Under the MoHFW, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is an important programme, which mandates surveillance & response to outbreak prone communicable diseases. IDSP is implemented in all 36 States/UTs. The program is responsible for the surveillance of 50 plus epidemic prone diseases and outbreak investigation. IDSP plays a crucial role in prompt response and surveillance of emerging and re-emerging diseases including Nipah Virus disease in the country.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and ICMR- National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, have strengthened Nipah surveillance by enhancing Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Kerala state and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) surveillance in West Bengal and Kerala since October-November 2024.
- A comprehensive guideline on Nipah Virus has been prepared which can be accessed on the link <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/nipah-virus-guidelines/>
- Under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases (NOHP-PCZ) various initiatives are taken to strengthen prevention, detection, and response capacities for zoonotic diseases in India, including Nipah Virus Disease (NiV)

- For institutionalization of One Health at National, State and district level – Zoonosis committee have been formed in All States /UTs to review status of all zoonotic diseases including Nipah virus
- Capacity Building of medical and veterinary professional up to frontline health /vet workers is through Regional and state level institutes.
- For understanding burden of priority zoonosis and efficient management 75 Sentinel Surveillance Sites in 28 States/ UTs strengthened under medical colleges/vet colleges.
- Centre for One Health, NCDC has prepared a Technical Guidance on Zoonotic Disease, including Nipah Virus Disease and may be accessed at link below <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Technical-Guidance-on-Zoonotic-Disease.pdf>
- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) video on Nipah virus disease has been prepared to create awareness in the public and prevent the spread of the disease. The IEC may be accessed at link below <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/iec-material-on-zoonotic-disease-nipah/>
