

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3004  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.08.2025**

**RISE IN RABIES CASES IN MAHARASHTRA**

**3004 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increasing number of rabies cases, especially in the State of Maharashtra, and the risk it poses to public health;
- (b) whether comprehensive data on dog and other animal bite incidents is being maintained for Maharashtra, and whether rabies has been made a notifiable disease in the State;
- (c) the steps being taken to strengthen post-bite treatment facilities and ensure availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin; and
- (d) whether any special awareness campaigns or public health drives have been launched to prevent rabies in urban and rural areas of Maharashtra?

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

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) is undertaking strengthening of surveillance of all animal bites in all States/UTs including of State of Maharashtra. The State Government of Maharashtra has declared rabies a notifiable disease. Data on dog and other animal bite cases and related deaths are reported by all States/UTs, including Maharashtra, through Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

(c) & (d) : Under the National Health Mission (NHM), States and UTs are supported through budgetary provisions for the implementation of the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP). Funding includes capacity building of healthcare staff, procurement of rabies vaccines, printing of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on rabies and dog-bite prevention, data entry support, review meetings, monitoring and surveillance, and establishment of Model Anti-Rabies Clinics and wound-washing facilities.

Life-saving drugs such as Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Anti-Rabies Serum (ARS)/Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) are provided free of cost in the public health facilities under National Free Drug Initiative of NHM. These drugs are also included in both the National and State Essential Drug Lists.

Also under Central Sector component, National Centre for Disease Control implements rabies control activities through awareness, lab strengthening, guidelines and training materials etc.

Further to strengthen involvement of veterinary sector under “National One Health Programme For Prevention and Control of Zoonosis” committees have been formed in all States and veterinary laboratories to strengthen diagnosis of animal Rabies.

To create awareness among public and healthcare professionals Dog bite protocols, IEC materials, and training videos on the management of animal bite/dog bite cases have been created and disseminated across the country including Maharashtra. Same can be accessed at: <https://rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in/iec>

"World Rabies Day" is observed annually on 28th September at both national and state levels. During this event, awareness activities on the Do's and Don'ts of handling dogs, dog bite cases, and the importance of rabies vaccination are conducted, particularly in schools for children.

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