

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**ANTI-RABIES VACCINE**

**168 SHRI HARIS BEERAN:**

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted any expert study on the deaths of people in the State of Kerala from Rabies despite receiving the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the reasons for increase in Rabies cases, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the patient safety risks associated with administering the ARV that has not undergone mandatory quality tests; and
- (e) whether Government has any action plan on Immunisation Policy on ARV?

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 \* FOR 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**(a) to (e)** Yes. The Central team comprising of Public Health Specialist, Drug Inspector, Surveillance Officer, Microbiologist, Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer had conducted investigation into suspected human rabies deaths in Kerala during year 2022 and 2025.

The details of investigations are as under:

**Investigation of suspected human rabies deaths in Kerala during year 2022 and 2025:** The samples of Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV) & Anti Rabies Serum (ARS) of the batches used in these cases were collected, tested at Central Drug Laboratory Kasauli and found to be of Standard Quality as defined in the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940.

Rabies vaccine is highly effective when given promptly and correctly after exposure. Effectiveness depends on timing and completion of the full schedule.

Anti-Rabies vaccine is highly effective, safe and well tolerated. Other biological, robust Quality Assurance mechanisms are in place for ARV and ARS in India. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization governs manufacturing, import, and marketing licenses for ARV & ARS, enforces Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) compliance via regular inspections and monitors production, sales, and distribution to prevent shortages. The Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) at Kasauli is the National Control Laboratory for testing of Immuno-biologicals (vaccines and antisera) meant for human use in India. The laboratory has the mandate of National Regulations of Vaccines produced indigenously for domestic market, immunization programme of the Government of India, export and for those imported to the country. Batches of ARV & ARS are tested at CDL before supplying in the system/market as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The States/UTs are advised to ensure the procurement of quality tested ARV/ARS through various guidelines/advisories.

(Link- <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Guidance-for-Preventing-Shortage-of-ARV-ARS.pdf> )

For anti-rabies vaccination (immunization using ARV), the National Guidelines for Rabies Prophylaxis 2019 are being implemented under National Rabies Control Program in all the States/UTs.

(Link- <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Rabies-Guidelines.pdf> )

Health is a State subject. The responsibility of strengthening public health care system lies with respective State/ Union Territories (UTs) Governments.

To strengthen surveillance, the States/ Union Territories (UTs) have been advised to notify rabies as a notifiable disease. As of now, 26 States/UTs have notified rabies in their respective jurisdictions. The details may be seen at the following link:

(Link- <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Letter-from-MoHFW-for-Rabies-Notification-to-the-states.pdf> ).

Under National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies, strategies includes training on appropriate animal bite management, surveillance and inter-sectoral coordination, strengthening surveillance of Animal Bites, provision of procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine for animal bite victims through the National Free Drug Initiative and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities and awareness videos have been developed and disseminated to State/Union Territories to promote public awareness on rabies prevention and the importance of timely Post- Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). IEC resources also emphasize community responsibility regarding stray dog vaccination and responsible pet ownership, including the need for vaccination and registration of both pet and stray dogs. The IEC resources may be accessed at the link:

<https://rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in/resources/uploads/PageContentPdf/169391566040.pdf>

A total of 279 Model Anti-Rabies Clinics have been established in the last three years, improving access to standardized case management and wound-washing facilities.

Fourteen government diagnostic laboratories across country have been supported to enhance rabies diagnosis and laboratory-based surveillance.

Under the 'National Rabies Control Program', the "National Action Plan for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030" (NAPRE) was conceptualized and jointly launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.

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