

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025**

IMPLEMENTATION OF RABIES ERADICATION PROGRAMME

1901. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

- (a) whether a national policy or action plan has been formulated to eradicate rabies through controlling the stray dog population by sterilisation, vaccination and treatment in accordance with the latest legal and regulatory frameworks;
- (b) the details of its implementation status and the progress achieved, particularly in major urban centres, together with measures to address high-incidence regions reporting increased dog-bite and rabies cases; and
- (c) the initiatives taken to educate citizens on safe dog-feeding practices and the importance of vaccination and registration of pet and stray dogs in controlling rabies?

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

(a) to (c) Under National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies, strategies includes training on appropriate animal bite management, surveillance and intersectoral 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 downloaded from the link provided below:

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

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. The NAPRE guidelines consist of two components: Human Health and Animal Health. The implementation of the Human Health component is undertaken by the 'National Centre for Disease Control' (NCDC) under the Ministry with dedicated budgetary support, while the implementation of the Animal Health component is to be undertaken by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. As per Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 Mass dog vaccination and dog population management are being done by the animal husbandry department in collaboration with local body authorities. The NAPRE document clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholder departments for achieving a rabies-free India by 2030 through controlling the stray dog population via sterilization, vaccination, treatment, awareness, and capacity-building activities, following a One Health approach.

The NAPRE 2030 can be accessed at:
<https://rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in/resources/uploads/PageContentPdf/169391359514.pdf>

Based on the NAPRE guidelines, States have been supported to develop their State Action Plans for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE). The States of Rajasthan, Puducherry, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tamil Nadu have already launched their action plans.

Additionally, the following initiatives have been undertaken by the Ministry under the National Rabies Control Programme across the States/Union Territories including major urban centers and high incidence regions:

- i. **Operational and financial support:** The Ministry provides substantial support to States which includes funding for capacity building of healthcare providers, procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Anti-Rabies Serum/Immunoglobulin (ARS/RIG), IEC activities, data-entry support, review meetings, surveillance, and establishment of Model Anti-Rabies Clinics (MARC)s).
- ii. **Establishment of MARCs:** 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.
- iii. **Strengthening diagnostics:** Fourteen government diagnostic laboratories across country have been supported to enhance rabies diagnosis and laboratory-based surveillance.
- iv. **Regular surveillance reporting:** States are regularly reporting animal-bite incidents and suspected or confirmed human rabies cases through the IDSP platform.
- v. **Notifiable disease advisory:** MoHFW issued an advisory urging States to notify

human rabies under relevant public-health laws, leading to 26 States/UTs designating rabies as a notifiable disease.

- vi. **Capacity building:** Training activities have been significantly strengthened, with over 1.66 lakh medical officers, nurses, and paramedical staff trained in dog-bite management and PEP administration over the last five years.
- vii. **Guidelines and awareness:** Multiple guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, training modules, and IEC materials have been developed and widely disseminated. Public awareness activities are conducted throughout the year, including observance of World Rabies Day on 28 September.
- viii. **Digital platforms and helpline:** To improve access to information and streamline reporting, a dedicated NRCP website has been launched along with a Rabies and Snakebite Helpline (15400) is operational in select States, with plans for gradual expansion.
- ix. **Rabies-Free City Initiative:** Recognizing the higher burden in urban areas, the Ministry has launched the “Rabies-Free City Initiative,” currently piloted in 15 Tier I and Tier II cities across six States (MP, Manipur, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha). This initiative focuses on strengthening surveillance, achieving at least 70% dog-vaccination coverage, ensuring timely access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and enhancing community awareness to create safer, rabies-free urban environments.

Reference:

<https://rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in/resources/uploads/PageContentPdf/174420154787.pdf>

Animal Welfare Board of India has issued Standard Operating Procedure to control the stray dog population by sterilisation, vaccination which can be accessed at following-
<https://awbi.gov.in/uploads/regulations/176431409245SOP-11282025001522.pdf>

Also, Animal Welfare Board of India has also issued guidelines with respect to pet dogs and street dogs and their Care-Givers which can be accessed at following-
https://awbi.gov.in/uploads/circular/163282565895pet_dog_circular_26_2_2015.pdf
