

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3645  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL DISEASE PREVENTION**

**3645 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE**

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that dental caries, periodontal diseases, Oral cancer, and edentulism constitute a major and growing public health burden, especially in rural and underserved regions;
- (b) Whether Government proposes to improve access to affordable dental care by addressing shortages of dental professionals and high treatment costs;
- (c) Whether nationwide epidemiological surveys, behavioural and dietary interventions, and targeted oral cancer prevention and early-detection programmes are being strengthened; and
- (d) Whether research and validation of indigenous medicinal plants for oral health promotion are being encouraged to support preventive and cost-effective care?

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

(a) to (d) The National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) and National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) as part of the National Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, aims to strengthen public health infrastructure, ensure accessible, affordable and quality oral healthcare services across the country. As per 2007 oral health survey, oral diseases include dental caries, periodontal diseases, fluorosis and edentulism. The programmes supports manpower, equipment, consumables, capacity building and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities across public health facilities, including district hospitals, sub-district hospitals and community health centres. Awareness activities are also organised with school and college students.

The programme provides for infrastructure, drugs, diagnostics and trained human resources such as dental surgeons, hygienists, assistants and technicians based on state requirements. Further the programme also deliver comprehensive oral healthcare services, including preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as scaling, fillings, root canal treatment, extractions and management of maxillofacial trauma and oral pre-cancer conditions.

The programmes are further strengthened through national resource centres that focus on training, research, awareness early screening and detection strategies, thereby enhancing workforce capacity and reducing the overall burden of oral diseases in India. One of the mandates of resource centres is also integrating with Ayush for medical management of Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders. Further, the National Medicinal Plants Board under Ministry of Ayush, through its Central Sector Scheme on 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants', supports research activities on various aspects of medicinal plants including research and validation of medical plants used in traditional system through government as well as private universities, research institutions and organizations across the country in project mode.

\*\*\*\*\*