

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1892
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

STRENGTHENING OF DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

1892. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to strengthen disease surveillance systems;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of implementation?

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

(a) to (c): The Government has undertaken several measures to strengthen disease surveillance systems in the country under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). These measures include strengthening surveillance infrastructure, laboratory networks, event-based surveillance, outbreak investigation and response mechanisms, capacity building of surveillance personnel, and adoption of digital technologies for near real-time disease surveillance. The details of the measures undertaken and the present status of implementation are at **Annexure**.

The measures undertaken by the Government to strengthen disease surveillance systems and the present status of implementation are as follows:

- i. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is implemented in all 36 States/UTs through Central, State and District level Surveillance Units. The program is responsible for the surveillance of 50 plus epidemic prone diseases. The IDSP-Integrated Disease Surveillance Platform (IHIP) enables geo-tagging of reported cases, geospatial analysis and heat map-based visualization for early detection and monitoring of disease outbreaks.
- ii. 17 Metropolitan Surveillance Units (MSUs) have been established and are operational under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).
- iii. Laboratory capacity has been strengthened under IDSP through designation of District Public Health Laboratories (DPHLs) and State Referral Laboratories (SRLs) for timely laboratory confirmation of suspected outbreaks. The State Referral Laboratory network has been established in 27 States/Union Territories, comprising 163 sanctioned State Referral Laboratories.
- iv. Event-based surveillance has been strengthened through media scanning and verification of reports appearing in print, electronic and digital media. Artificial Intelligence-enabled tools are used to identify early warning signals and generate alerts for timely public health action, facilitating early detection and rapid response to potential disease outbreaks through trained Rapid Response Teams.
- v. Multi-disciplinary Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at the district and State levels and the National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) at the national level have been established to support the timely investigation, risk assessment, and effective containment of disease outbreaks.
- vi. Regular training programmes are conducted for medical officers, epidemiologists, microbiologists and surveillance personnel to strengthen disease surveillance, outbreak detection, reporting and response.
- vii. The Government is strengthening integrated disease surveillance through the National One Health Mission (NOHM), which promotes coordinated action among 16 Ministries and Departments, with the Department of Health Research (DHR)/Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as the nodal implementation agency.
- viii. An Advisory and Review Committee on Integrated One Health Surveillance has also been constituted, with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, serving as its Secretariat. The Mission has initiated pilot projects on disease-specific, wastewater and genomic surveillance to enhance integrated surveillance and strengthen the early detection and response to public health threats.
