

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026**

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES IN ODISHA
2650 DR. SASMIT PATRA:**

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

- (a) the district-wise details of Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHL), Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories and disease surveillance units functioning in Odisha;
- (b) the status of manpower, diagnostic capacity and testing facilities available therein;
- (c) whether any assessment has been undertaken regarding gaps in laboratory infrastructure and disease surveillance in the State; and
- (d) the measures taken to strengthen preparedness for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases?

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

(a) to (d): As per information provided by the Government of Odisha, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme component of the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), 30 Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs) have been approved in Odisha, one in each district. Further, District Surveillance Units (DSUs) are functional in all 30 districts of the State under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). The State Government has also informed that the total number of Microbiologists is 64 and diagnostic services are provided as per the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

The Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) Scheme is implemented by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to strengthen laboratory capacity for diagnosis, surveillance and research on viral and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. At present, six VRDLs are functional in Odisha, namely, ICMR-National Institute of Health Research, Bhubaneswar (Regional Level); Srirama Chandra Bhanja Medical College, Cuttack (State Level); AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (State Level); Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College & Hospital, Koraput; Veer Surendra

Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla, Sambalpur; and Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Medical College, Berhampur. These laboratories have sanctioned manpower ranging from 6 to 8 personnel, annual diagnostic capacities ranging from 3,000 to 8,000 tests, and are equipped with molecular, serology and culture facilities commensurate with their level.

The Government of Odisha has further informed that assessment of laboratory infrastructure is undertaken through National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) and monthly surveillance under Kayakalp. The State has also informed that laboratory infrastructure under PM-ABHIM is strengthened and District Surveillance Units are functional in all 30 districts for disease surveillance and response to unusual events.

In addition, under the VRDL Scheme, laboratory infrastructure and disease surveillance capacities are periodically reviewed with respect to infrastructure, equipment, testing facilities, manpower, diagnostic workload, quality management systems, biosafety, training requirements and outbreak response capabilities. Identified gaps are addressed through strengthening of infrastructure, equipment, human resources, training and technical support under the Scheme.

As informed by the State, the Government has undertaken various measures to strengthen preparedness for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. These include strengthening of State and District Surveillance Units under IDSP, real-time disease surveillance through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), constitution and training of Rapid Response Teams, strengthening of Integrated Public Health Laboratories, expansion of diagnostic facilities, capacity building of health personnel, dissemination of standard operating procedures and disease-specific guidelines, inter-sectoral coordination under the One Health approach, regular review and supportive supervision, and risk communication and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.

Further, under the VRDL Scheme, the Government has undertaken measures including strengthening of the three-tier laboratory network, expansion of molecular, serological and genomic diagnostic capacities, strengthening of laboratory infrastructure, biosafety and quality management systems, capacity building of scientific and technical manpower, and facilitation of sample referral, confirmatory testing and inter-laboratory coordination during outbreaks.
