

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1321
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

ZIKA VIRUS

**1321. SHRI D.S. RATHOD:
SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any strategy to control the Zika Virus disease in the country including Gujarat and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has sent any expert team to Gujarat in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Zika Virus can spread through the tears and sweat of a patient, if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases that have come to light in the country so far?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

- (a): The Zika action plan of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has a three pronged strategy of
 - I. surveillance at points of entry and with community
 - II. Early detection and containment of the outbreak and
 - III. Pragmatic approach for management through merger with National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), if India becomes endemic for Zika Virus Disease.
- (b): Government of India sent a multi-disciplinary team to Gujarat on 5th January, 2017 to advise the State on the preparedness and response for Vector Borne diseases including Zika Virus disease.
- (c): Zika Virus disease is primarily spread by bite of infected Aedes mosquito. It can also be transmitted through body fluids such as semen (sexual route) and through blood transfusion. A pregnant women infected with Zika Virus can pass the virus to fetus during pregnancy or at time of birth. Transmission of infection through tears, saliva, sweat etc has not been conclusively established and has been subject matter of further research.

In India only four cases of Zika Virus Disease has been reported. Three from Ahmedabad, Gujarat and one from Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.