

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023**

RISING CASES OF H3N2

**4853. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has held any meeting to review the rising number of H3N2 influenza cases across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the said meeting;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total number of influenza cases reported in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the details of deaths due to said influenza reported in the country along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the spread thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has sanctioned and released any fund to develop advanced testing laboratories and related facility for testing of influenza in the country and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (f):

Union Health Ministry monitors the public health situation and reviews with all States/UTs and concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations on a regular basis.

Union Health Ministry has recently also issued an Advisory to States/UTs to take necessary steps which includes:

- Closely follow the trend of Influenza-like illness/Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (ILI/SARI) in respective areas, monitor the proportion of SARI cases among all ILI& SARI cases and refer sufficient number of samples for testing for Influenza, SARS-CoV-2 etc.
- Raise community awareness regarding adherence to respiratory and hand hygiene (like covering one's mouth and nose with a tissue/elbow when coughing or sneezing, avoiding spitting in public places, preferably use of mask in crowded environments, frequent hand wash etc.), promoting early reporting of symptoms, and limiting contact, if suffering from respiratory illness.
- Widely disseminate technical guidelines for Seasonal Influenza (<https://main.mohfw.gov.in/basicpage/technical-guidelines>), COVID-19 (<https://mohfw.gov.in>) etc. which have also been made available on the website of this Ministry
- Implement 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in Context of COVID-19' which provides for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of ILI/SARI available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/OperationalGuidelinesforRevisedSurveillanceStrategyincontextofCOVID-19.pdf>.
- Take stock of hospital preparedness including drugs, medical equipment, capacity building of human resource on existing guidelines as well as vaccination coverage against COVID-19 and Influenza.

As per information provided by States/UTs, a total 1350 cases of H3N2(details at annexure) and 05 deaths (01 each from Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Puducherry) have been reported from 1st January 2023 to 27th March 2023.

To ensure adequate infrastructure at district level, Government of India provides financial assistance to all States/UTs under National Health Mission for strengthening public health care systems including setting up new health facilities and infrastructure upgradation under various schemes.

With an aim to better prepare the country for any future public health emergencies, PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores which aims to support states in terms of setting up of

Integrated public health labs, surveillance network, establishing critical care blocks & upgrading research infrastructure. Union Health Ministry has released Rs 584.04 Cr in 2021-2022 and for the financial year 2022-23, Rs 4,176.84 Cr has been allocated under PM-ABHIM.

Annexure

S. No.	States/UTs	Total Cases
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	12
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	1
5	Bihar	1
6	Chandigarh	2
7	Chhattisgarh	3
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Delhi	370
11	Goa	2
12	Gujarat	12
13	Haryana	15
14	Himachal Pradesh	2
15	Jammu & Kashmir	6
16	Jharkhand	6
17	Karnataka	134
18	Kerala	60
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2
22	Maharashtra	184
23	Manipur	0
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	0
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	32
28	Puducherry	125
29	Punjab	26
30	Rajasthan	222
31	Sikkim	0
32	Tamil Nadu	83
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	4
35	Uttarakhand	7
36	Uttar Pradesh	19
37	West Bengal	20