

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1065
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2020**

SPREAD OF H1N1 VIRUS IN KERALA

1065. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the H1N1 virus is causing health concerns to the people of Kozhikode district in Kerala for the last many years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted on the outbreak of this virus and the reasons for the intermittent emergence of the virus in this area, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of people of this area affected in the last five years and the steps being taken by the Government to eradicate this virus completely?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): Cases of seasonal influenza A (H1N1) have been reported from Kozhikode district of Kerala for the last few years. Details for cases and deaths reported from Kozhikode district of Kerala in last five years and current year are as under:

Year	Cases	Deaths
2015	189	5
2016	10	0
2017	163	6
2018	158	6
2019	114	6
2020 (till 02.02.2020)	7	0

A number of studies are being taken up on Influenza by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). These include studies to determine the circulating strains of Influenza A and B to determine the vaccine composition for India and studies to monitor the emergence of antiviral resistance to Oseltamivir.

As per the Constitutional provisions, health is a State subject and primary responsibility of health matters rest with States/UTs. However, the Central Government closely monitors the Seasonal Influenza situation, have been in regular touch with the States/UTs on the issues and have taken numerous measures to contain and manage the Seasonal Influenza (H1N1), as under:

- During such outbreaks, the situation is regularly reviewed and closely monitored on highest levels in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare including through video-conferencing with senior State Government functionaries.
- The situation of the Seasonal Influenza is also regularly reviewed by the Joint Monitoring Group under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Service (DGHS). Last meeting JMG was held on 08.01.2020.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided guidelines on categorization of patients, treatment protocol and guidelines on ventilatory management to the States/UTs which are also available on the website of the Ministry (www.mohfw.nic.in) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) (ncdc.gov.in). State Governments have also been advised for vaccination of health care workers dealing with H1N1 cases.
- All the States have been advised to complete the procurement of required logistics for managing seasonal influenza A (H1N1) from State budget. However, during crisis in States, Govt. of India is supplying logistics (drugs, PPE kits, N-95 face masks). In 2019, Govt. of India supplied logistics to Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chandigarh.
- Public Health Teams were deputed in 2019 to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Uttarakhand to assess the situation and assist the States in strengthening response to the increase in cases.
- Advisory for preparedness to seasonal influenza A (H1N1) was issued time to time. Last advisory was issued on 06.11.2019 to major affected States.
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and its State units have enhanced the surveillance for Influenza like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI).
- IEC material i.e. infographics on seasonal flu for general public was shared with all the States. The other IEC materials including audio spot is available on MoHFW website since 2015.

Further, IDSP assisted lab network of 12 Laboratories are providing laboratory support in terms of testing, quality assurance, guidance, providing viral transport mediums and diagnostic reagents. The diagnostic capacity has also been strengthened by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) through more than 41 Virus Research Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) to test clinical samples including 6 labs common to IDSP and ICMR.