

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2020**

LIVER HEALTH

3349. SHRI S. MUNISWAMY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to conduct awareness programme for liver health issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government is planning to conduct the programme and the role to be played by health centres in this regard?

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

(a): Yes

(b):

- Observation of World Hepatitis day
- Functioning of call centre (No. 1800116666) from 7:00Am to 11:00PM all 7 days a week for dissemination of information and addressing issues related to viral hepatitis.
- Use of print media and mid media
- Inter-personal communication through health staff and peer supported

(c): National Viral Hepatitis Control Program under the National Health Mission was launched in July 2018 Under the program, free diagnostics and drugs are being made available to all in need, not only for treatment of hepatitis C but also life-long management of hepatitis B through designated medical colleges (Model Treatment Centres) and select district hospitals (treatment centres) strengthened under the program.

The key strategies adopted under the Program include preventive, promotive and curative interventions with the focus on awareness generation, increasing access, promoting diagnosis and providing treatment for viral hepatitis through designated medical colleges (Model Treatment Centres) and select district hospitals (treatment centres) strengthened under the program.

National guidelines for diagnosis and management of viral hepatitis have also been released so as to ensure standardization of the laboratory and treatment protocols.

Coordination and collaboration with other ministries and national programs and schemes including National AIDS Control Program; Universal immunization Program, maternal health, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), Swachh Bharat Mission etc is also being done.

Mother to child transmission is one of the major routes of transmission of hepatitis B. India has already included vaccine against hepatitis B under the universal immunization program. This will be supplemented with screening of all pregnant women for Hepatitis B during their antenatal care check-ups, so that institutional delivery of those screened positive for hepatitis B, birth dose vaccination along with Hepatitis B immunoglobulins to the newborn and management of the mother for hepatitis B can be ensured at higher healthcare facilities.

Vaccination against Hepatitis B to the health care workers has also been initiated under this program.

Vaccination against hepatitis B to the high risk groups is also planned under the program