

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3344  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT**

**3344: SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has created an eco-system to deal with any epidemic outbreak;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism/processes and infrastructure put in place by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to deal with such outbreak;
- (d) whether the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1987 in its present form is sufficient for dealing with an epidemic; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to update the same along with the timeline for updation?

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

(a) to (e): Government of India continues to keep a close watch over disease outbreaks and public health emergencies in the country and globally. As a signatory to World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, 2005, Government of India continues to work towards strengthening of core capacities to detect and respond rapidly to communicable disease threats and emergencies.

For preparedness and response against health emergencies, the National Disaster Management Authority in 2008 has issued detailed guidance on management of biological disasters (available at [https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/Guidelines/biological\\_disasters.pdf](https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/Guidelines/biological_disasters.pdf)). Further, National Disaster Management Authority has also issued and widely circulated National Disaster Management Plan 2019 which provides an all-hazard plan with clarification on roles and responsibilities for preparedness and response activities against biological emergencies.

The Ministry of Health & FW has also finalized and circulated Model Crisis Management Plans for biological disasters in 2017 and again in 2019 to serve as template for preparation of their own respective crisis management plans. Besides this Ministry of Health & FW has also issued detailed guidelines related with containment and clinical management for managing COVID-19.

PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores over 6 years envisages increased investments in public health and other health reforms to safeguard against future resurgences of COVID-19, if any, and future public health emergencies by:

- Strengthening of Health and Wellness Centers in villages and cities for early detection of diseases
- Addition of new critical care-related beds at district level hospitals.
- Operationalization of Regional National Centers for Disease Control (NCDC).
- Establishment of metropolitan units in urban areas and BSL-III labs across the country to strengthen the laboratory network.
- Strengthening of existing Viral Diagnostic and Research Labs (VRDLs) and creation of new National institutes of Virology (NIVs) and a National Institute for One Health through ICMR.
- Strengthening of Public Health Units at international Points of Entry (PoEs)

The Epidemic Act, 1897 has been reviewed and amended in the context of COVID-19. The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020 was notified on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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