

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3268
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2022**

BIO-SAFETY LABORATORIES

3268 SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a comprehensive action plan to strengthen country's capability to combat the threat of bio-terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details of the specific infectious organisms identified so far;
- (c) the number of bio-safety laboratories set up so far and the locations thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of countries/foreign organizations assisting in setting up bio-safety laboratories across the country;
- (e) whether these laboratories conform to the international standards; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): 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).

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.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides requisite guidance and logistic support to the States/UTs. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme through its State and District units conducts disease surveillance in the country through a decentralized State based surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to detect the early warning signals, so that effective public health actions can be initiated in response to health challenges in the country.

As per the information received from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the DBT has notified a “List of Infective Microorganisms corresponding to different Risk Groups, 2021” which provides the list of Infective Microorganisms corresponding to different Risk Groups, which determine the operational practice and minimum physical containment requirements and accordingly, allows selection of appropriate biosafety level facilities. The list can be accessed from <https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Updated%20Risk%20Group13122021.pdf> .

138 bio-safety laboratories have been set up across the country under the Department of Health Research (DHR)’s Scheme- Setting up of Nation-wide network of Laboratories for managing Epidemics and Natural Calamities (VRDL). State/UT wise list is attached as Annexure-I. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has a well-established laboratory infrastructure, to combat biosafety and biosecurity threats to the country, including apex lab at National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune

DBT has notified the “Guidelines for the Establishment of containment facilities: BioSafety Level 2 (BSL-2) & 3 (BSL-3) and Certification of BSL-3 facility” and Regulations & Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research and Biocontainment, 2017. The guidelines encompass biosafety standards laid by various international agencies. All the biosafety laboratories specifically BSL-4 and BSL-3 established at ICMR and its network laboratories are trained in Biosafety laboratory operationalization. The key scientific staff of ICMR-NIV, Pune has also been trained at Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA in biosafety practices.

Annexure-I

State/UT	Name of VRDLs	VRDLs)		
Andaman VRDLs) (2)	Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair		Sciences, New Delhi- 110029	
	Andaman & Nicobar Island Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS), Port Blair		Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences	
Andhra Pradesh VRDLs) (8)	Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh		Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi	
	Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada		University College of Medical Sciences & Guru Teg Hospital, Delhi	
	Government Medical College, Anantapur		Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi	
	Rajeev Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Kadapa			
	Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada			
	Guntur Medical College, Guntur			
	Andhra Medical college, Vishakhapatnam			
	All India Institute of Medical and Sciences, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh			
Assam VRDLs) (6)	Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh		Goa	
	Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati		Goa Medical College , Bambolim	
	Silchar Medical College, Silchar		Gujarat VRDLs) (6)	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad
	Jorhat Medical College, Jorhat			M.P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar
	Tezpur Medical College, Tezpur			Government Medical College, Surat
	Fakhruddin Medical College, Barpeta			GMC, Bhavnagar
	PDU GMC, Rajkot			
	Government Medical College & SSG Hospital, Vadodara			
Bihar VRDLs) (6)	Patna Medical College, Patna	Haryana VRDLs) (2)	PGIMS, Rohtak	
	Darbhanga Medical College, Darbhanga		BPS Government Medical College for Women, Sonapat	
	S K Medical College, Muzaffarpur	Himachal Pradesh VRDLs) (5)	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla	
	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS Patna (Bihar)		Dr. Radha Krishna Govt. Medical College, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh	
	Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna		Lal Bahadur Shastri Medical College, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh	
	Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College & Hospital, Bhagalpur		Dr.Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda	
	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. Medical College, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh			
Chandigarh (2 VRDLs)	PGIMER, Chandigarh	Jammu and Kashmir VRDLs) (4)	Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar	
	Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh		Government Medical College, Jammu	
Chhattisgarh (2 VRDLs)	Late Sri Baliram Kashyap Memorial Govt. Medical College, Jagdalpur		Government Medical College, Srinagar	
	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur, Chhattisgarh.		Government Medical College, Baramulla	
Delhi-NCT (5)	All India Institute of Medical	Jharkhand (3 VRDLs)	Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi	
			MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur	
			All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deogarh, Jharkhand	
		Karnataka (7 VRDLs)	Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bangalore	
			Mysore Medical College & Research	

	Institute, Mysore		JNIMS, Imphal
	Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Science, Bellary		Meghalaya
	Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan		NEIGRIHMS, Shillong
	Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences		Mizoram
	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubballi		Zoram Medical College
	Gulbarga Institute Of Medical Sciences, Gulbarga		Odisha (6 VRDLs)
Kerala (5 VRDLs)	Government Medical College, Kozhikode		RMRC, Bhubaneswar
	National Institute of Virology, Alappuzha		SCB Medical College, Cuttack
	Government Medical College, Trivandrum		AIIMS, Bhubaneswar
	Government Medical College, Thrissur		Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College & Hospital, Koraput, Odisha (SLNMCH)
	Government Medical College, Kannur, Pariyaram		Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha
	AIIMS, Bhopal		Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital, Brahmapur.
Madhya Pradesh (6 VRDLs)	Bundelkhand Medical College, Sagar		Puducherry (2 VRDLs)
	MGM Medical College, Indore		JIPMER, Puducherry
	Gajra Raja Medical College, Gwalior		Indira Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute, Puducherry
	National Institute for Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur		Punjab (3 VRDLs)
	S.S Medical College, Rewa		Government Medical College, Amritsar
Maharashtra (11 VRDLs)	Indira Gandhi Government Medical College, Nagpur		Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot, Punjab
	Government Medical College, Miraj, Sangli		Government Medical College, Patiala
	Kasturba Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Mumbai		Rajasthan (7 VRDLs)
	Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai		SMS Medical College, Jaipur
	AIIMS, Nagpur		Dr. S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur
	Government Medical college, Nagpur		RNT Medical College, Udaipur
	Government Medical College, Aurangabad		S.P. Medical College & Associated Group of Hospitals, Bikaner, Rajasthan
	V. M. Government Medical College, Solapur		Jhalawar Medical College, Jhalawar, Rajasthan
	Shri Bhausahab Hire Government Medical College, Dhule		AIIMS, Jodhpur
	Government Medical College and Hospital & Superspeciality Hospital, Akola		Government Medical College, Kota, Rajasthan
	Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune		Tamil Nadu (10 VRDLs)
Manipur (2 VRDLs)	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal		Madurai Medical College, Madurai
			Government Medical College, Theni
			Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College, Salem
			Government Medical College, Thiruvarur
			Government Medical College, Villupuram
			Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli
			Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore
			King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
			Madras Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

	ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai	(3 VRDLs)	Haldwani	
Tripura	Government Medical College, Agartala		AIIMS, Rishikesh	
Telangana (4 VRDLs)	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad		Doon Government Medical College, Dehradun	
	Kakatiya Medical College, Nizampura, Warangal	West Bengal (10 VRDLs)	NICED Virus Unit, Kolkata	
	Gandhi Medical College, Secunderabad		IPGMER, Kolkata	
	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar		Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital, Murshidabad, Berhampur, West Bengal	
Uttar Pradesh (7 VRDLs)	King George Medical University, Lucknow		Midnapore Medical College & Hospital, Midnapore	
J N Medical College, Aligarh	UPUMS, (Formerly UPRIMS) Saifai		North Bengal Medical College, Darjeeling	
Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Banaras	ICMR-Regional Medical Research Center, Gorakhpur		Malda Medical College, Malda	
All India Institute of Medical Science Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh	Government Institute of Medical Sciences, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh		Burdwan Medical College	
Uttarakhand	Government Medical College,		RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata	Diamond Harbour Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Diamond Harbour, West Bengal
				All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Kalyani, West Bengal
