

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 857
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024**

“CASES OF AMOEBIC MENINGOENCEPHALITIS IN KERALA”

**857. SHRI HIBI EDEN:
SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:**

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a)** whether the Government has identified the specific causes of the recent amoebic meningoencephalitis cases in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (b)** whether preparations and preventive measures are being implemented by the Government to control and check the spread of amoebic meningoencephalitis in Kerala and other regions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c)** whether the Government is planning to send an expert team to Kerala to assist in managing and investigating the outbreak of the disease and if so, the details thereof
- (d)** whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any initiatives of campaigns to educate the public regarding amoebic meningoencephalitis, its causes, symptoms, and preventive measures, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e)** whether any guidelines have been given to the Kerala Government in relation to containment and remedial measures relating to the disease, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (e) As per information available, diagnostic testing results for five children with clinical diagnosis of Acute Encephalitis and cerebro spinal fluid (CSF) is showing motile amoeba. Out of the five, three cases have microbiological features of *Vermamoeba vermiformis* and one case has been confirmed as *Naegleria Fowleri* on PCR testing.

Based on the media alert generated by Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), the Ministry through the Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Branch at Kozhikode alongwith the State/ District health officials conducted a joint assessment of cases. The disease surveillance team of Kerala Govt has been closely monitoring and investigating the cases. As per requirement, central expert team would be assigned for the same.

State Government is conducting Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to educate the public regarding amoebic meningoencephalitis, its cause, symptoms, and preventive measures. In the context of reporting amoebic meningoencephalitis cases in the State, for ensuring effective control and management of the disease, Kerala Government has also issued the “Technical Guidelines on Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Amoebic Meningoencephalitis in Kerala” which is available at https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/GO-Rt-1760-2024-HFWD-dated-20-07-2024-with-Annexure_Technical-Guidelines-_Amoebic-Meningoencephalitis.pdf.
