

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4177  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024**

**RISE IN CASES OF HEPATITIS -C**

**4177: SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that according to a recent report, young men and women in Punjab are at the highest risk for Hepatitis C, primarily due to unsafe medical practices and unsterilized equipment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the specific measures implemented by the Government to address these risks for the said groups;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any research to understand its causes and spread in the said State and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government helps in improving awareness, early diagnosis and treatment to curb this public health issue?

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

(a) to (d) The Government of India (GoI) launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) under the aegis of National Health Mission (NHM) in 2018. Under NVHCP free diagnostics and drugs are being made available to all including young men and women in need for treatment of hepatitis C. The above scheme has been implemented in all the districts of Punjab.

- (i) Awareness campaigns are being carried every year amongst general population on risks factors for HCV infections and where to go for testing and treatment.
- (ii) Every year training sessions are held with medical officers regarding diagnosing HCV infections early on and standard treatment protocol to be followed. This helps in strengthening diagnosis and improves treatment outcomes.
- (iii) Peer Supports have been appointed in all 23 districts in Punjab to counsel HCV and HBV patients so that they complete their treatment and also avoid risk factors that will make them prone to re-infection and spreading infection to others.

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