

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2025**

CLINICAL TRIALS OF FAVIPIRAVIR

963. DR. MALLU RAVI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of recent preclinical studies conducted by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune regarding the use of Favipiravir as a treatment for the Chandipura virus (CHPV);
- (b) if so, the outcomes of these studies in terms of viral suppression and survival benefits observed in animal models;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate clinical trials of Favipiravir for human use in CHPV-affected regions and if so, the details thereof alongwith the timeline and responsible agencies;
- (d) the current protocols for managing CHPV infections in the absence of a specific antiviral treatment; and
- (e) the support extended by the Government to fast-track research and drug development for CHPV, especially in light of its high fatality rate among children?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

- (a) and (b): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that ICMR-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) Pune has conducted a pilot study to assess the antiviral activity of Favipiravir in Vero cells infected with Chandipura virus (CHPV) and demonstrated its antiviral effects. Complete inhibition of CHPV growth was observed at 320µM Favipiravir concentration. In addition, the antiviral effect of Favipiravir in Chandipura infected CD1 mice was also demonstrated as all the mice survived with the treatment of 300mg/kg/day of Favipiravir given orally for 7 days post infection.
- (c): ICMR has informed that the clinical trials to prove efficacy are challenging because of sporadic occurrence of Chandipura disease.
- (d): AIIMS and ICMR have informed that management primarily involves early detection, supportive clinical care, and symptomatic treatment. Hospitalized patients, especially children, are treated with intravenous fluids, antipyretics, anticonvulsants, and measures to control cerebral edema, including ICU support when necessary. Laboratory confirmation is done via RTPCR and IgM ELISA. Due to the sporadic nature of outbreaks, surveillance and rapid case reporting are essential and being followed. Preventive

measures focus on vector control and promoting personal protection through repellents and insecticide-treated nets.

(e): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has undertaken a multicentric research initiative involving Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and the Gujarat State Health Department to comprehensively investigate disease pathogenesis, transmission dynamics, and potential insect or animal reservoirs.
