

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1089
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025**

OUTBREAKS OF WATERBORNE AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

1089: SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the public health risks arising from recent floods, including outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken to strengthen surveillance, early detection and emergency medical response in flood-affected districts, districts-wise;
- (c) whether additional medical teams, mobile health units or stockpiles of essential medicines deployed in such districts and if so, the details thereof, districts-wise;
- (d) the coordination mechanisms established with State Governments for sanitation, drinking water safety and mental health support during rehabilitation; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes any long-term guidelines to improve climate-resilient public health preparedness in recurring flood zones in the country and if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare keeps a close watch over public health impact of all disasters including floods. The outbreak prone diseases during floods which are being monitored includes waterborne Diseases like Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Cholera, Dysentery, Leptospirosis, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E and Vector-borne diseases like Dengue, Malaria, Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis. Health being a State subject, requisite technical and logistic assistance is being provided to States/UTs to mitigate the health impact of disasters.
- (b) Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is an important surveillance program under National Health Mission that does the disease surveillance in the country. IDSP is implemented in all 36 States/UTs. The program is responsible for the surveillance of 50 plus epidemic prone diseases including flood prone diseases in the country.

As a mandate under IDSP, surveillance, early detection of outbreaks and taking preventive actions are integral part of the programme. The gathered information helps in health preparedness of the authorities in the State for early detection and quick response in disease outbreaks through trained rapid response team (RRTs). In the year 2021, to strengthen the disease surveillance in the country, the programme has shifted from a paper-based, aggregate, weekly reporting to a paperless, case based, near real time reporting through Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) where all the 36 states/UTs are reporting. It provides a single operating platform of public health surveillance of the individuals at District, State and National levels.

(c) Public Health and Hospitals is a State Subject and the responsibility for strengthening of healthcare system including Mobile Medical Unit(MMU) in remote rural areas lies with respective State/Union Territory Governments. The key objective of the Mobile Medical Units is to reach the population in remote, difficult, underserved and inaccessible areas with a set of preventive, promotive and curative services, including but not limited to Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Services. These services are free for the patient at the Point of Care. National Health Mission (NHM) provides technical and financial support to the States/Union Territories for MMUs. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides support to the States based on the proposal submitted by States in PIP (Program Implementation Plan) based on the respective State's requirement every year.

(d) and (e) The Government, under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), National Centre for Disease Control, has adopted a comprehensive framework to strengthen climate-resilient public health preparedness in flood-prone areas. The measures include:

- Guidelines and Frameworks
 - Public Health Guidelines for Flood Events issued to States, covering rapid needs assessment, epidemic-prone disease surveillance, and health system planning.
 - Guidelines for Green and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities (February 2023) developed by NCDC, promoting resilient infrastructure, energy efficiency, water safety, and continuity of care.
 - Emergency Preparedness Checklist and Healthcare Facility Preparedness & Response Tool for Extreme Weather Events (EWE), ensuring facility-level readiness, essential supplies, referral planning, and preparedness tracking.
- Early Warning and Alerts
 - Daily weather bulletins, flood forecasts, and special tropical outlooks disseminated by IMD to State and District Nodal Officers.
- Capacity Building
 - Regular training of State and District Nodal Officers (SNO/DNO), block health officers, and medical officers on hydrometeorological events including floods.
- IEC and Community Outreach
 - Dissemination of IEC materials including posters, audio-visuals, social media campaigns, and flood safety tips.
- Resilient Infrastructure and Planning
 - Vulnerability assessments of health facilities, retrofitting for flood resilience (e.g., raised plinths, improved drainage, ramps, and additional floors).

- Hospital safety and disaster management plans integrated into State Action Plans on Climate Change and Health (SAPCCHH).
- Intersectoral Coordination
 - Formalized collaboration with State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA), IMD, INCOIS, Geological Survey, and other agencies for disaster planning and response.
 - District Task Forces constituted to review preparedness and coordinate health sector action.

Further, to address the burden of mental disorders, the Government of India is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 767 districts for which support is being provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. The National Disaster Management Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychological Support Services (MHPSS) in Disasters has been updated in the year 2023, with the aim to provide concrete actions and activities to be carried out through all phases of a disaster including preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Also, the National Disaster Management Authority, in collaboration with National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru has developed modules for Disaster Mental Health Services as ready reckoner for disaster mental health preparedness.
