

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5545  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**BIOSAFETY LABS**

**5545. SHRI BASTIPATI NAGARAJU:  
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:**

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

- (a) the number of Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) and Biosafety Level-4 (BSL-4) laboratories sanctioned and those currently operational in the Country, State-wise and district-wise in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government has allocated and released funds for the establishment of such laboratories and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the details of research studies currently being undertaken by such laboratories, State-wise and district-wise in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) the current status and outcomes of such research studies along with the funds released/utilised for the same since inception, State-wise and year-wise;
- (e) the details of the major viruses being researched and the key advancements achieved through such research in the areas of epidemic preparedness and viral diseases management by such laboratories; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to expand the network of BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories in the Country and if so, the details thereof along with the targets proposed and the timeline likely to be taken for the same?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f): Department of Health Research (DHR) has sanctioned 167 Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) under the Central Sector Scheme "Establishment of a Network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics and Natural Calamities". Out of these, 11 regional level VRDLs are Bio-Safety Level-3 (BSL-3) laboratories. Their details are given in Annexure. Under the scheme Rs. 176.55 Crore has been allocated for regional VRDL labs since inception. All these labs are reporting diagnosis on the NIE portal. In Andhra Pradesh two State level and seven Medical college level labs have been approved.

Under the Pradhan Mantri- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) scheme, two BSL-4 Laboratories at National Institute of One Health (NIOH) Nagpur (Maharashtra) and ICMR-NIV East Zone at Dibrugarh (Assam) have been approved. In addition, BSL-3 Laboratories have been approved for Zonal NIVs at Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Bengaluru (Karnataka), NIOH Nagpur (Maharashtra) and National Institute of Translational Virology and AIDS Research (ICMR-NITVAR) Pune (Maharashtra). Besides, 05 VRDLs have been inducted for upgradation to Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratories.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has informed that under the PM-ABHIM scheme, a network of specialized 10 BSL-3 laboratories has been approved for it. These also include one BSL-3 at NCDC Branch, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh. Under the scheme, Rupees 30 Crore has been allocated for each BSL-3 lab of NCDC.

The state-wise details of BSL-3 Labs in VRDL, ICMR, NCDC and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) networks are given in Annexure.

These laboratories undertake research, diagnostic and surveillance activities for viral and other infectious diseases of public health importance. In addition, they participate in operational research, outbreak investigations, and validation of diagnostic assays. ICMR has informed that it has supported development of IgG ELISA diagnostic kits for Chandipura virus, Rapid LAMP assay for Monkeypox virus, A colorimetric isothermal (RT-LAMP) assay for Nipah virus, Pan-DENV molecular point-of-care assay for all dengue serotypes, CRISPR/Cas-based isothermal assays for dengue and chikungunya and Multiplex RT-PCR for Enteric Viruses among others. DBT has informed that in these labs research has been undertaken on research and development work on transboundary animal diseases; zoonotic diseases; next generation universal influenza vaccines and Mycobacterium tuberculosis using Non-Human Primates (Rhesus Monkeys) and mice experimental models; SARS-CoV2; Dengue virus and Chikungunya virus.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5545 FOR 27.03.2026 REGARDING BIOSAFETY LABS**

**Regional Laboratories approved under VRDL Network of DHR**

Sr No	State/UT	Name
1	Assam	ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh
2	Bihar	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna
3	Chandigarh	Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, (PGIMER), Chandigarh
4	Delhi	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
5	Himachal Pradesh	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur
6	Kerala	Government Medical College, Kozhikode
7	Madhya Pradesh	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal
8	Odisha	ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar
9	Puducherry	Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, (JIPMER) Puducherry
10	Rajasthan	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur
11	West Bengal	ICMR - National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections, Kolkata

**BSL-3 Laboratories with ICMR**

S. No.	State	Name of Institute	Level	Total fund released
1	Maharashtra	ICMR-NIV Pune	BSL-4 & BSL-3	Rs. 25 Crore
2	Telangana	ICMR-NARFBR, Hyderabad	ABSL-3	Rs. 20 Crore
3	Tamil Nadu	ICMR-NIRT, Chennai	BSL-3	Rs.17 Crore
4	Tamil Nadu	ICMR-NIRT Thiruvallur campus	BSL-3	Rs.17 Crore
5	Kerala	ICMR-NIV Field Unit Kerala	BSL-3	Rs.17 Crore

**BSL-3 Laboratories sanctioned under NCDC, DoHFW**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Sites for BSL-3 labs</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	Mangalagiri
2	Karnataka	Hubli
3	Haryana	Rohtak
4	Jharkhand	Deoghar
5	Himachal Pradesh	Kasauli
6	Maharashtra	Nagpur
7	Maharashtra	Mumbai
8	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi
9	Rajasthan	Jaipur
10	Gujarat	Surat

**BSL-3 Laboratories under Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Institutions**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of BSL-3 facilities</b>
1.	Delhi	04
2.	Haryana	03
3.	Karnataka	01
4.	Kerala	01
5.	Odisha	01
6.	Telangana	02
7.	West Bengal	01

\*\*\*\*\*