

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *199
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31TH JULY, 2026**

INCIDENCE OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE

***199 DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the incidence of sickle cell disease is significantly high among the tribal population of the Gadchiroli, Chandrapur & Gondia district of the Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of persons screened, identified as carriers and diagnosed with sickle cell disease in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur & Gondia district of Maharashtra under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish additional sickle cell screening centres, genetic counselling facilities, blood storage units and dedicated treatment centres in the said Parliamentary Constituency to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment for affected tribal populations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of financial assistance, manpower deployment, awareness programmes and availability of medicines such as Hydroxyurea along with other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the objective of eliminating sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047 in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 199* FOR 31TH JULY, 2026**

(a) to (d) 'Public Health' & 'Hospitals' are State subjects. This Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs including Maharashtra, for conducting screenings, procurement of drugs for sickle cell anaemia and strengthening existing blood banks/establishing new blood bank, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission (NHM).

Under National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM), screenings in the targeted age group of 0-40 years are conducted at all health facilities from District Hospitals (DH) upto Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) level in affected 17 tribal states including Maharashtra for diagnosis of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

As reported by the States on SCD portal, as on 26.07.2026, more than 7.25 crore screenings have been conducted in tribal dominated areas of the country including 1.11 crore in the State of Maharashtra. As informed by State, number of persons screened, identified as carriers and diagnosed with SCD in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia district, under this Mission is at Annexure.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has devised the cost norms for establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoE) on SCD funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in various states. 17 CoEs in 15 states including in AIIMS Nagpur, Maharashtra have been approved by MoTA.

Patients living with SCD are provided with counseling regarding lifestyle management, pre-marriage and pre-natal decisions.

Hydroxyurea has been included in NHM Essential Drugs List at Sub-Health Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHC)/ Urban PHC, Community Health Centres and DHs to address the issue of access to medicine. To monitor the drug procurement and ensure the availability of essential medicines in public health facilities, Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) has been launched by the Govt. of India.

Through MoTA, awareness and counseling material have been developed and shared with the States for propagation of awareness of disease, screening and management.

Under Department of Health Research, ICMR has established the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and a Centre for Research Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies in Chandrapur, Maharashtra which supports national programs including sickle cell disease.

Annexure

Number of persons screened, identified as carriers and diagnosed with SCD in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia district, under NSCAEM:

S. No.	Name of District	No. of people screened	No. of people identified as Carriers	No. of people diagnosed with SCD
1.	Gadchiroli	4,92,884	24,056	2,654
2.	Chandrapur	5,45,282	22,559	2,481
3.	Gondia	3,94,540	9,468	1,976
