

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3245
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026**

CASES OF NIPAH VIRUS IN WEST BENGAL

3245. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent cases of Nipah virus outbreak reported in West Bengal, with at least five confirmed cases and the existing of the virus in Kerala, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the specific measures being taken by the Government to prevent the zoonotic transmission from animals to humans, including the details of active surveillance in the affected regions;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any advisory for the commencement of screening for Nipah in containment zones across the country along with the details of critical care support in this regard;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to contain the outbreak, given its high fatality rate of 40 per cent to 75 per cent and the absence of approved vaccines or antivirals;
- (e) whether a public health advisory has been issued to raise awareness about symptoms, prevention and hygiene in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is aware that Thailand and Singapore are screening passengers arriving from West Bengal, if so, the details of the specific travel advisories issued for outbound passengers from the affected regions?

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

(a) to (e): The Government is aware of the reported cases of Nipah virus disease in the States of West Bengal and Kerala. During 2026, West Bengal reported two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus disease, including one death, while Kerala reported one laboratory-confirmed case. All reported cases were promptly investigated by the respective State Governments with technical support from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). National Joint Outbreak Response Teams (NJORTs) were deployed to both West Bengal and Kerala to support epidemiological investigations, strengthen surveillance, facilitate contact tracing, and assist the States in implementing appropriate public health measures for containment of the outbreaks.

The details of the measures undertaken by the Government to prevent the zoonotic transmission from animals to humans and to contain the outbreak are at **Annexure**.

The NCDC has developed and disseminated technical guidance documents, including standard operating procedures, Learning Resource Packages and Communicable Disease Alert to support uniform preparedness, surveillance, diagnosis and response across States and Union Territories. The details may be seen on the links: (https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/resource/1769335263_ZDPHI_Manual_2025_V2_06.11.2025.pdf) and (https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/glimpse_pdfs/1770282425_CD-Alert-NIPAH-Virus.pdf)

To strengthen risk communication and community awareness, NCDC has developed and disseminated a range of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, including print, audio and video resources, on priority zoonotic diseases, including Nipah Virus Disease. These materials are used for training of healthcare professionals as well as for public awareness and community outreach activities. The details may be accessed at link:

https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/includes/Health_Information/healthcare.php

(f): The Government is aware that during the Nipah virus outbreak reported in West Bengal in early 2026, Singapore and Thailand had introduced temporary public health screening, including temperature screening, at airports and seaports for travellers arriving from the affected areas in India. These measures were implemented for a limited period and were subsequently discontinued.

The control measures undertaken and contingency plans for prevention and containment of Nipah virus disease outbreaks:

- i. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) maintained continued support and collaborative engagement with both Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories throughout the year, ensuring training, a steady supply of Personal protective equipment and diagnostic reagents.
- ii. Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) mandates surveillance & response to outbreak prone communicable diseases. IDSP plays a crucial role in prompt response and surveillance of emerging and re-emerging diseases including Nipah Virus disease in the country.
- iii. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and ICMR- National Institute of Virology, Pune, have strengthened Nipah surveillance by enhancing Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Kerala state and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness surveillance in West Bengal and Kerala since October-November 2024.
- iv. A comprehensive guideline on Nipah Virus has been prepared which can be accessed on the link: <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/nipah-virus-guidelines/>.
- v. Under National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases (NOHP-PCZ) various initiatives are taken to strengthen prevention, detection, and response capacities for zoonotic diseases in India, including Nipah Virus Disease.
- vi. For institutionalization of One Health at National, State and district level – Zoonosis committee have been formed in All States /UTs to review status of all zoonotic diseases including Nipah virus
- vii. NCDC has prepared a Technical Guidance on Zoonotic Disease, including Nipah Virus Disease that may be accessed at link: <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Technical-Guidance-on-Zoonotic-Disease.pdf>.
- viii. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) video on Nipah virus disease has been prepared to create awareness in the public and prevent the spread of the disease. The IEC may be accessed at link: <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/iec-material-on-zoonotic-disease-nipah/>.
