

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2019**

**H1N1 VIRUS IN KERALA**

**3. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take any measures to prevent the spread of epidemics like Chikungunya and H1N1 in Kerala particularly during monsoon season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to monitor the possible threat from migratory birds which causes easy deadly virus transfer in some cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government would likely to take any measures to ensure efficient waste management in States like Kerala in view of huge health hazards due to inefficient waste management especially during monsoon season?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) and (b): Public Health is a State subject. Government of India (GoI), however, provides necessary assistance and guidance to State Governments for strengthening their healthcare system. Measures taken by GoI during 2019 to prevent Chikungunya and H1N1 in the country, including in Kerala, particularly during monsoon season are at *Annexure – I*.

(c) and (d): India has launched the National Action Plan (NAP) for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along Central Asian Flyway (2018-2023). Building capacity and protocols for disease surveillance in wild birds is one of the activities under the Capacity Development of the Action Plan. Six regional committees have also been formed for implementing the NAP. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, funds are provided to the concerned State Governments to procure the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Avian Influenza (H5N1) disease surveillance.

(e): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in supersession of Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. A detailed note is at *Annexure – II*.

**Detailed statement on measures taken by Government of India (GoI) to prevent the spread of epidemics like Chikungunya and H1N1**

**I. Chikungunya:**

GoI has taken the following steps to prevent Chikungunya in the country during 2019:

- Provided Technical Guidelines for prevention and control, case management and effective community participation to the States for implementation.
- Conducted trainings for capacity building of doctors on case management.
- Advised States to monitor and supervise for early case detection and prevention and control.
- Till date, 7 advisories have been issued and 5 reviews held.
- Provided free diagnostic facilities through 673 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals (SSHs) and 16 Apex Referral laboratories (ARLs) identified across the country. Out of these, 33 SSHs and 1 ARL have been identified in the State of Kerala.
- Supplied 631 Chikungunya (1 Kit=96 tests) IgM test kits through National Institute of Virology, Pune till date, out of which 21 Chikungunya IgM kits were supplied to Kerala.
- Information Education and Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities were undertaken to disseminate knowledge for prevention and control.

**II. H1N1 :**

- Health being a State subject, the State Governments are expected to take prompt measures for preventing the spread of seasonal influenza A/ H1N1 virus and for diagnosis, case management and treatment of the patients. The Central Government has been pro-active in assisting the State Governments, in this regard and technical guidelines have been shared with the State.
- Till date (09.06.2019), 25958 laboratory confirmed cases of seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in the country in 2019, out of which 1061 have died. Majority of cases and deaths were reported from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana followed by Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Kashmir (J&K), Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The decline in trend of cases and deaths in the country was observed since 8th week ending on 24th February, 2019.
- Regular review meetings are being held at the highest level and preparedness and response measures are being reviewed. These have been held at the level of Health and Family Welfare Minister, Secretary (Health), Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Additional Secretary (Health) and Joint Secretary (Public Health) in 2018-2019. On the last occasion the situation was reviewed by DGHS in a meeting of Joint Monitoring Group held on 12.06.2019.
- A Public Health Team was deputed in 2019 to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Uttarakhand to assess the situation and assist the States in strengthening response to the increase in cases.
- Advisories for preparedness for seasonal influenza A (H1N1) have been issued from time to time during 2019 by Union Secretary (Health), Joint Secretary (Public Health), and Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and its State units have enhanced the surveillance for Influenza like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI).

- IDSP assisted lab network of 12 Laboratories are providing laboratory support in terms of testing, quality assurance, guidance, providing viral transport mediums and diagnostic reagents. The laboratory network of ICMR (41 labs) has also been activated to test for H1N1 cases and beyond these laboratories, States also have their identified State Government and Private laboratories for testing clinical samples of seasonal influenza A (H1N1). In addition, NCDC is providing diagnostic kits and Viral Transport Medium kits to States as per identified need to be used in laboratories/ hospitals identified by the State Governments.
- The States have been asked to follow the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoI (Risk Categorization, Clinical management Protocol, Use of masks for healthcare workers, Guidelines for vaccination with influenza vaccine and Providing Home care) on seasonal influenza A (H1N) available at MoHFW and NCDC websites.
- Oseltamivir is the drug recommended by WHO. The drug is made available through the Public Health System free of cost. Oseltamivir was also made available under Schedule H1 by Govt. of India so that the drugs are readily available to the needed. All the States have been advised to complete the procurement of required logistics for managing seasonal influenza A (H1N1) from State budget. However, during crisis in States, Govt. of India is supplying logistics (drugs, PPE kits, N-95 face masks). Currently in 2019, Govt. of India has supplied the logistics to Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.
- MOHFW has recommended vaccination for health care workers and other priority groups. The guidelines for influenza vaccination have been shared with all States. The details of manufactures of vaccine (as per recommendation of Govt. of India) provided from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), has been shared with all States.
- 3 batches of training were organized on ventilator management and management of critically ill influenza patients in coordination with Emergency Medical Relief (EMR) division in the months of May and June 2018 in which 14 States with 102 participants were oriented. Another 3 sets of trainings were provided on Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) guidelines to States Surveillance officers and to State Epidemiologist and Data Manager of SSU (IDSP).
- IEC material i.e. infographics on seasonal flu for general public was shared with all States on 05.10.2018. The other IEC materials including audio spot is available on MoHFW website since 2015.
- The situation is being monitored regularly through Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC), situated at NCDC and status is being shared with MoHFW.

**Note on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**

The Rules prescribe that no waste generator shall throw, burn or bury the solid waste generated by him, on streets, open public spaces outside his premises or in the drain or water bodies. Further, the Rules direct the waste generators to segregate the waste at source and hand over the segregated waste to authorised waste pickers or waste collectors. Under the duties and responsibilities of local authorities and village Panchayats, the Rules direct street sweepers not to burn tree leaves collected from street sweeping and store them separately and handover to the authorised waste collectors. The Rules mandate the Urban Local Bodies to frame Bye-Laws incorporating the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and ensure timely implementation.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has overall mandate to take periodic review of the measures taken by the States and local bodies for improving their solid waste management practices. The Rules mandated various Ministries, Government departments, Municipalities and even village panchayats to abide by certain activities and timelines for effective implementation of the rules. The Rules mandate the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to co-ordinate with State Pollution Control Boards and review the implementation of the Rules in the country.

Apart from framing the policy, the Central Government is also supporting the efforts of State Governments in establishing the infrastructure related to proper implementation of solid waste management in their States. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) project under which various projects have been taken up. Under this programme, during the mission period of 2014-15 to 2019-20, an allocation of Rs. 7424.24 Cr has been made for Solid Waste Management Projects.