

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2167
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026**

NIPAH VIRUS OUTBREAKS IN KERALA

2167. SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent surge in Shigella, Nipah virus and dengue cases in Kerala and if so, the details of Central assistance extended to the State in response;
- (b) whether the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) or any other Central agency has studied the recurring pattern of Nipah virus outbreaks in Kerala since 2018, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any long-term Central strategy has been formulated by the Government to support high-risk States in preventing such recurrence, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enhance Central funding or introduce a dedicated scheme to help States, including Kerala, cope with recurring public health emergencies and ensure timely availability of essential medicines, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d): The Government is aware of the reported cases of Shigellosis, Nipah virus disease and Dengue in Kerala. The Government continuously monitors the trends of outbreak-prone diseases including Shigellosis, Dengue and Nipah virus disease, through Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) - Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

Health is a State subject, the responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system lies with the respective State/ UT Governments. Under National Health Mission (NHM), the Government provides technical and financial support to States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare systems based on the proposals submitted by them in their Program Implementation Plans, subject to norms & availability of resources. The details of the central assistance may be seen at the Link: <https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=1377&lid=744>.

The Ministry through the National Centre for Disease Control in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Government of Kerala and other

concerned agencies, has investigated all confirmed Nipah virus disease outbreaks reported in Kerala since 2018.

Nipah virus disease is an emerging zoonotic infectious disease caused by the Nipah virus that mainly affects pigs and humans. Human infections usually occur in clusters or outbreaks, particularly among close contacts and caregivers of infected individuals. The natural reservoir host of the virus is believed to be Pteropus fruit bats (flying foxes).

According to the information available, fruit bats play a significant role in transmission of the virus. Human infections may occur due to spillover of the virus from fruit bats to intermediate hosts or directly to humans. In India, outbreaks have been associated with exposure to contaminated food sources and close contact with infected individuals, which may lead to periodic occurrence of cases in certain geographical areas.

The details of various control measures undertaken by the Government for surveillance, prevention and control of Nipah virus disease, Dengue and Shigellosis in all States/UTs including State of Kerala are placed at **Annexure**.

Disease-wise measures undertaken for surveillance, prevention and control of Nipah virus disease, Dengue and Shigellosis in all States/UTs including State of Kerala

A. Nipah Virus Disease

- i. A National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) comprising experts from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Forest & Wildlife authorities and human health sector, along with bat survey teams, has been constituted and deployed during outbreaks for comprehensive assessment and response.
- ii. Technical and logistical support has been extended to Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories in Kerala, including training and provision of personal protective equipment and diagnostic reagents, to strengthen preparedness and diagnostic capacity.
- iii. Surveillance has been strengthened through Acute Encephalitis Syndrome surveillance and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme-Integrated Health Information Platform, supported by event-based surveillance, media scanning and verification, and outbreak investigation by Rapid Response Teams at the district and State levels.
- iv. Public awareness and capacity-building activities have been undertaken for healthcare professionals, medical and veterinary personnel, and frontline health and veterinary workers.
- v. Zoonosis Committees have been constituted in States and Union Territories to review zoonotic diseases, including Nipah virus disease, and facilitate the One Health approach at the national, State and district levels.
- vi. NCDC Guidelines on Nipah Virus Disease, Technical Guidance on Zoonotic Diseases (Centre for One Health, NCDC) and IEC Material on Nipah Virus Disease may be seen at the following links respectively:
 - <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/nipah-virus-guidelines/>
 - <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Technical-Guidance-on-Zoonotic-Disease.pdf>
 - <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/iec-material-on-zoonotic-disease-nipah/>

B. Dengue

The Government of India has been extending continuous technical and financial support to States, including Kerala the details are as under:

- i. Technical guidelines on dengue case management, prevention and control have been provided to States and Union Territories, including Kerala, for implementation.
- ii. Surveillance and free diagnosis are supported through designated Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals and Apex Referral Laboratories, including facilities in Kerala, with IgM diagnostic test kits supplied through ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune.
- iii. Measures include early diagnosis, appropriate case management, strengthened referral services, epidemic preparedness and rapid response, along with real-time monitoring through the Integrated Health Information Platform-Vector Borne Diseases portal.
- iv. Integrated Vector Management includes indoor space spraying, outdoor fogging, anti-larval measures, use of bio-larvicides and larvivorous fish, and source reduction to prevent mosquito breeding.

- v. Inter-sectoral convergence and collaboration with State Health Departments, Urban Local Bodies and other stakeholders are promoted to strengthen vector control and community awareness.
- vi. Information, Education and Communication and Behaviour Change Communication activities are undertaken through social, radio, electronic and print media. Annual observance of National Dengue Day and Anti-Dengue Month, capacity building of community-level functionaries, and periodic advisories to States and Union Territories support prevention and outbreak containment.
- vii. IEC Material on Dengue may be seen at the following link <https://ncvbdc.mohfw.gov.in/index1.php?font=Increase&lang=1&level=2&lid=4074&sublinkid=5992&utm>

C. Shigellosis

The Government of Kerala, supported by IDSP, MoHFW initiated following public health measures:

- i. Rapid Response Team investigations and inter-sectoral coordination meetings have been undertaken in the affected districts to assess outbreaks and coordinate containment measures.
- ii. Active surveillance, house-to-house visits, active case search, contact tracing and follow-up of affected persons and households have been undertaken for early detection and interruption of transmission.
- iii. Oral rehydration solution has been distributed in affected communities, along with advice on timely healthcare seeking, rehydration and appropriate case management.
- iv. Chlorination and superchlorination of drinking-water sources have been carried out, and water-quality monitoring, testing and residual-chlorine assessment have been strengthened.
- v. Environmental sanitation assessments and food-safety inspections have been undertaken, with attention to wells, septic tanks, drainage systems, waste disposal and food establishments in affected areas.
- vi. Health education, awareness sessions, group discussions and distribution of IEC materials have focused on prevention of water-borne diseases, hand hygiene, safe drinking water, food hygiene and early healthcare-seeking behavior.
- vii. Coordination among the Health Department, Kerala Water Authority, Local Self-Government Institutions and Food Safety Department has been strengthened. The Central Surveillance Unit under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme is monitoring the situation in coordination with the State and District Surveillance Units.
- viii. Official IEC material issued by the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Kerala, may be accessed through the link: <https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/shigella.pdf>
