

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026**

IMPACT OF EL NINO ON HEALTH

3426. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the likely impact of El Niño on heat-related illnesses in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any heat action plans have been issued by the Government to the States in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen public health facilities to manage heatstroke and dehydration in the said State; and
- (d) the details of financial and technical assistance provided to Tamil Nadu in this regards?

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

(a) to (d): The Government monitors the potential health impacts associated with extreme heat including those that may arise due to climatic phenomena such as El Niño in conjunction with weather forecasts issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

El Niño conditions may contribute to above-normal temperatures and prolonged heat episodes, thereby increasing the risk of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke particularly among vulnerable populations such as elderly, pregnant women, children, persons with chronic diseases and outdoor workers.

The Government issued National Action Plan on Heat Related illnesses which provides detailed guidance on clinical management workflow, preparedness of health facilities and health sector on heat related matter. The details of the Action Plan may be seen at the following link: <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/uploads/pdf/heat12.pdf>)

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>.

Under NPCCHH, activities are targeted towards priority climate sensitive health issues including extreme heat. Measures taken by the Government to strengthen public health facilities to manage heatstroke and dehydration cases including in the State of Tamil Nadu are at **Annexure**.

Measures taken by the Government to strengthen public health facilities to manage heatstroke and dehydration cases including the State of Tamil Nadu:

- i. National Heat-Related Illness Surveillance initiated on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) reporting from States/UT.
- ii. Issuing seasonal advisories and standard treatment protocols.
- iii. Guidelines have been developed on Emergency Cooling for Severe Heat-Related Illnesses.
- iv. Conduct of Clinical training of physicians and paediatricians in management workflow of heat stroke cases.
- v. In-person District Nodal Officers' training were conducted for clinical management, surveillance reporting of HRI and implementation of health sector activities.
- vi. Virtual refresher training sessions were conducted for State, District nodal officers under NPCCHH, on health facility preparedness, HRI management and surveillance reporting.
- vii. Nation-wide virtual webinars on Clinical Aspects of Heat-Related Illnesses for Physician, Paediatricians, Medical Officers and State and District Public Health Officials were organized.
- viii. Information, education and communication (IEC) material on vulnerable population for prevention of heat-related illnesses is disseminated to States/UTs including the State of Tamil Nadu.
- ix. Heat Action Day (June 2) and World Environment Day (June 5) were observed to engage various community and social media platforms for enhanced heat-health awareness.
- x. Customized color-coded alert messages based on IMD's warning are circulated during the season every day to State and District level nodal officers in all States and districts inclusive of Tamil Nadu for further dissemination to health care facilities and action.
- xi. State Government of Tamil Nadu ensures adequate stocks of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Intravenous (IV) fluids, emergency medicines and other logistics at health facilities.
- xii. Establishing triage and prompt referral mechanisms for severe heatstroke cases.
- xiii. Strengthening emergency response through 108 ambulance services.
