

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1290  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**SETTING UP OF RESEARCH CADRE IN MEDICAL COLLEGES**

**1290. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:**

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

- (a) whether the youth of the country have established a new benchmark in the field of medical research in the world during the pandemic, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate research cadre in medical colleges for research;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the type of research cadre proposed to be set up;
- (d) whether any step has been taken by the Government for prevention and cure of lethal disease like Hepatitis B; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a): India's young people have stepped up as researchers, innovators and communicators on the frontline, promoting health and safety during the pandemic. Numerous articles have been published by Indian students/researchers in reputed national and international journals during the pandemic and thus contributing to research related to COVID-19 pandemic. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) including its young scientists have played a pivotal role in management of COVID-19 pandemic. Besides issuing various health advisories, ICMR has facilitated setting up of 3250 testing labs across the country. Also, ICMR has developed Covaxin in partnership with Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL).

(b) and (c): The Department of Health Research (DHR) has established Multidisciplinary Research Units (MRUs) in government medical colleges and Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs) to promote medical research in the country. So far 115 MRUs and 33 MRHRUs have been established in different States and Union Territories. However, there is no such proposal to set up a separate research cadre in medical colleges for research under consideration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(d) and (e): National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) was launched in 2018 under the aegis of the National Health Mission, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The scope of the program was expanded to include management of Hepatitis B in 2019. Hepatitis B is a vaccine preventable disease and the program, in coordination with immunization division is ensuring Hepatitis B birth dose vaccine and Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin to babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers. The program envisages prevention through awareness generation and management of viral hepatitis by providing free diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis B to eligible patients.

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