

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024**

OUTBREAKS OF HEPATITIS A IN KERALA

849. V K SREEKANDAN

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

- (a) whether Kerala is prone to more explosive outbreaks of Hepatitis A and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there have been several outbreaks of Hepatitis A with higher fatalities throughout the year in all districts of Kerala for the last two decades and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any vaccination strategy for the Hepatitis A is the need of the hour along with stringent water quality surveillance and food safety norms and if so, the details and the steps taken thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to deploy a team of medical experts to the State to take stock of the situation and to suggest and provide remedial measures to contain the disease in the country and if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) to (d) National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) has reported that there is no available evidence that Kerala is likely to witness more explosive outbreaks of Hepatitis A.

Kerala has been reporting Hepatitis A cases through its disease surveillance system along with adoption of prompt control measures. As per report, there were 13826 Hepatitis A cases in Kerala from 2008 till 17th July, 2024 out of which 101 death cases were confirmed.

The National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) was launched on 28th July, 2018 to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality due to Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E as one of the aims. The program funds for management of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E. It also coordinates with the Department of Drinking water and Sanitation to ensure reduction in transmission of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E. At present the NCHCP does not advocate for vaccination of Hepatitis A as India is hyperendemic for Hepatitis A infection.

Government of India monitors the situation on regular basis to contain the disease.
