

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5218

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015

EMERGENCE OF INDIA AS HEALTHCARE HUB HEPATITIS INFECTION

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

- (a) whether there is high prevalence of hepatitis-B and other types of hepatitis, particularly in tribal areas and hepatitis infection accounts for a large number of liver and cancer cases in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of hepatitis related cases and deaths reported in the country during each of the last three years, type and State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up laboratories at various level for diagnosis and monitoring of hepatitis cases in the country` and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the other measures being taken by the Government to control or eliminate hepatitis from the country; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a substitute drug to Gilead`s hepatitis-C drug Sovaldi/Sofosbuvir at affordable cost in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): Exact disease burden of viral hepatitis in India is not known. The number of cases and deaths due to Viral Hepatitis as reported by the States/UTs to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) in the last three years is given at annexure. Separate figures for various types of Hepatitis and their association with liver and cancer cases are not collected at present.

(c) & (d): The Government of India has launched a National Programme for prevention and control of viral Hepatitis during 12th Five Year Plan period under which the activities undertaken, inter alia, are:

1. Laboratory network for laboratory based surveillance of viral hepatitis in different geographical locations of India, in a phased manner.
2. Setting up of one Reference Laboratory at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi.
3. Training and capacity building of professionals in relevant sectors, like Microbiologists, Laboratory Technicians, data Managers and Field Workers.
4. Laboratory support for outbreak investigation of hepatitis through established network of laboratories.
5. Development of guidelines and creating awareness for prevention and control and treatment of blood borne and water borne hepatitis.
6. Information Education and communications (IEC) for dissemination of information about prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

In addition, Hepatitis B vaccination was introduced in the country as a pilot project in 33 districts and 15 cities in the year 2002-03 and was universalized under Universal Immunization Programme in the year 2010-11.

(e) : Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted import and marketing permission on 13th January, 2015 for Sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet (brand name Sovaldi) manufactured by M/s Gilead Science Ltd., to M/s Mylan Pharma Pvt. Ltd. for treatment of chronic Hepatitis C in adults.

Subsequently, CDSCO has also granted permission to manufacture and market Sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet in March, 2015 to Indian manufacturers namely, M/s Hetero Labs, and Natco Pharma. CDSCO has no information about cost of the drug.