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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 280
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

STEADY RISE IN COVID-19 CASES

280 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India"s daily average COVID cases are showing a frightening steady rise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that COVID 19 has reached community outbreak since June,2020 and most cases in cities are being received from rural and remote areas, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to increase the availability of intensive care beds and the capacity of hospitals in remote areas to cope with a large-scale outbreak of COVID-19; and

(d) if so, the details therefor and if not the reasons thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) The lockdown (25th March to 31st May) successfully controlled the aggressive progression of COVID in India. In the post-lockdown phase, the cases have shown a steady increase. However, 3,328 cases per million and 55 deaths per million population respectively, are one of the lowest in the world as compared to similarly affected countries.

(b) Outbreaks of COVID are still largely restricted to urban and peri-urban areas. However there has been reporting from rural areas in the proximity of major cities.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India followed a graded approach for expanding COVID-19 dedicated hospital infrastructure. The states were advised to plan for the requisite number of isolation, oxygen supported and ICU beds, based on the prevalent and expected case growth rate. MoHFW is also monitoring the COVID hospital infrastructure. As of now, there are enough bed available to face any contingency.