GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.827
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th SEPTEMBER, 2020

COVID-19 CASES IN ARMED FORCES

827 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst armed forces;

(b) the total number of deaths so far due to COVID-19 amongst armed forces;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the virus is stopped from spreading in Army barracks;

(d) the steps taken to enhance the medical facilities available to armed forces;

(e) whether those medical facilities are equipped to deal with COVID-19 patients; and

(f) if not, efforts being made to upgrade them?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK

(a) The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst serving Armed Forces personnel are 22,353.

(b) As on date, a total of 41 deaths have taken place in the Armed Forces which can be directly ascribed to COVID-19.

(c) To ensure that infected persons do not transmit the infection to susceptible individuals, a 14 days mandatory quarantine period is enforced for all personnel returning from leave or reporting on permanent posting. Those who develop symptoms are immediately tested and if found positive are isolated in healthcare facilities. Active tracing of high risk contacts of these confirmed cases is undertaken and those meeting the criteria are isolated and tested between day 7-10 of exposure. An extensive Information, Education and Communication campaign has been undertaken by the Armed Forces in all stations to sensitize the population in the context of prevention methods, primarily social distancing.

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(d) At the outset of the pandemic, supply orders for essential equipment critical to COVID care (Ventilators, Oxygen Concentrators, Multipara Monitors, PPE, Face Masks, Disinfectants Sanitizers, Hand Held Thermal monitors etc) were placed for equipping all hospitals of the Armed Forces. Subsequently, molecular testing machines and test kits were procured and supplied to Armed Forces hospitals. In line with the international and national treatment protocols for COVID-19, Armed Forces hospitals have a wide array of anti-viral drugs (Favipiravir and Remdesivir) and immuno-modulatory agents (Tocilizumab, Prednisolone, etc.). Two hospitals in the Armed Forces are using Plasma Therapy for treatment of severely ill patients.

(e) All Armed Forces hospitals are suitably equipped to deal with COVID-19 patients.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e) above.

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