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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2321
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH March, 2021

HERD IMMUNITY AGAINST COVID-19

2321 **SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:**

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

(a) whether Government has any country-wide data to understand the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the population so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether herd immunity can be achieved in the country given that new variants of the virus are coming up;

(d) if not, the details of long-term plan Government has for combating the virus; and

(e) the extent to which COVID-19 vaccines will be effective if new virus strain re-infections start surging?

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

(a) & (b): As on 12th March 2021, all the States and UTs have reported cases of COVID-19. Till now, a total of 1,13,08,846 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,58,306 deaths have been reported in the country. The State-wise details on number of cases and deaths is at **Annexure**.

(c) to (e): There are critical unknowns about the virus in particular the mutant variants such as potential for transmitting the disease after vaccination, duration of immunity (following infection or vaccination) and potential for mutant variants to escape the immune system. As per World Health Organization, COVID-19 vaccines that are currently in use are expected to provide at least partial protection against new virus variants.

Hence, the Government of India has been following a containment strategy to break the cycle / suppress the cycle of transmission. As far as the new mutant variants are concerned, the same public health interventions as applicable for containment shall continue.

Annexure

State/UT-wise details on number of COVID-19 cases and deaths (as on 12th March 2021)

S. No.	Name of State / UT	Total cases	Deaths**
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5028	62
2	Andhra Pradesh	891178	7179
3	Arunachal Pradesh	16840	56
4	Assam	217745	1097
5	Bihar	262909	1548
6	Chandigarh	22697	357
7	Chhattisgarh	315864	3875
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3426	2
9	Delhi	642439	10934
10	Goa	55676	803
11	Gujarat	275907	4418
12	Haryana	273888	3065
13	Himachal Pradesh	59439	1003
14	Jammu and Kashmir	127363	1969
15	Jharkhand	120467	1093
16	Karnataka	957584	12381
17	Kerala	1085663	4355
18	Ladakh	9840	130
19	Lakshadweep	569	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	266573	3881
21	Maharashtra	2266374	52667
22	Manipur	29309	373
23	Meghalaya	13985	148
24	Mizoram	4435	10
25	Nagaland	12217	91
26	Odisha	337992	1917
27	Puducherry	39954	670
28	Punjab	193345	5996
29	Rajasthan	322281	2789
30	Sikkim	6179	135
31	Tamil Nadu	857602	12535
32	Telangana	300717	1650
33	Tripura	33425	391
34	Uttarakhand	97634	1698
35	Uttar Pradesh	604791	8741
36	West Bengal	577511	10286
Total		11308846	158306