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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED Q. No 1699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd AUGUST 2021

DATABASE OF COVID-19 PATIENTS BEING DECLINED TREATMENT DURING PANDEMIC

1699 SHRI RAJMANI PATEL
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Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

a) whether the Ministry has collected and maintained data on COVID-19 positive patients who were turned away from Government hospitals between March 2020 till date;
b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
c) whether the Ministry has conducted an audit to ensure that hospitals are able to treat all patients who come their way during the impending third wave;
d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
e) if so, the time frame for implementation and completion of the same?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (e)

Health is a state subject. Government of India has provided the required technical support and has also supported the States through logistic and financial support to further strengthen the existing health infrastructure to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the ongoing initiatives to further strengthen healthcare infrastructure include:

- A three-tier arrangement of dedicated COVID-19 health facilities [(i) COVID Care Center (CCC); (ii) Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) and (iii) Dedicated COVID Hospital

(DCH)] has been implemented in the country to reduce the risk of cross infection to non-COVID patients as well as to maintain continuity of non-COVID essential health services in the country.

- Government of India has roped in tertiary care hospitals under other ministries to supplement the hospital facilities. Further, many large temporary treatment facilities were established by DRDO to manage surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. The isolation bed capacity and ICU bed capacity were also enhanced continuously.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare continues to provide technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19. So far more than 150 guidelines/advisories/SoPs/plans have been provided to States/UTs.
- States and UTs were advised to ensure a District level dashboard clearly reflecting facility-wise bed availability updated real-time through web portal or mobile app and wide publicity of the same in public domain. States/UTs were also requested to consider providing an online utility for bed allocation in hospitals for seamless admission as per feasibility.
- Taking into cognizance the surge in cases during the month of May 2021, on 8th May 2021, Union Ministry of Health issued a National Policy for Admission of Covid Patients in Hospitals. As per the policy, States and UTs, hospitals under the Central government, State Governments and Union Territory administration including private hospitals (in States and Union Territories) managing COVID patients were advised to ensure the following:

    a. Requirement of a positive test for COVID-19 virus is not mandatory for admission to a COVID health facility. A suspect case shall be admitted to the suspect ward of CCC, DCHC or DCH as the case may be.
    b. No patient will be refused services on any count. This includes medications such as oxygen or essential drugs even if the patient belongs to a different city.
    c. No patient shall be refused admission on the ground that he/she is not able to produce a valid identity card that does not belong to the city where the hospital is located.
    d. Admissions to hospital must be based on need. It should be ensured that beds are not occupied by persons who do not need hospitalization. Further, the discharge should be strictly in accordance with the MoHFW's discharge policy.

Further to strengthen the infrastructure in States, Union Government has supported States with following steps:

- During the F.Y. 2019-20. funds to the tune of Rs.1113.21 crore was released to the States/UTs under NHM.
- In September 2020, the Union Government allowed the states to spend maximum 35% of annual allocation of funds under SDRF for the financial year 2019-20. The ceiling was further enhanced to 50% during the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for containment measures of COVID-19.

- During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs.8257.88 crore has been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package.
- In addition, 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II' has also been approved by the Cabinet with Rs 23,123 crores (with Rs. 15,000 crore as Central Component & Rs 8,123 crore as State component) and is to be implemented from 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022.

  It includes support to State/UT level for ramping up Health Infrastructure including those in rural, tribal and peri-urban areas closer to the community, providing support for procurement of drugs and diagnostics to enhance service delivery at district and sub district levels for management of COVID-19 cases (including pediatric care) and for maintaining a buffer of drugs, support for IT Interventions such as implementation of Hospital Management Information System and expanding access to tele-consultations in all districts, and support for capacity building and training for all aspects of management of COVID-19.