

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022**

PREDICTION OF FOURTH WAVE OF COVID-19

2166. SHRI BRIJLAL

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

- a) Whether the researches of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) have predicted the fourth wave of COVID-19 in the country between June and August on the basis of Gaussian Distribution system;
- b) If so, Government reaction there on;
- c) Whether the scientists/researchers have expressed the possibility of the emergence of any new variant, if so, the details thereof; and
- d) The preparations made or proposed to be made by Government in the health sector keeping in mind the above apprehensions?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DR BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (d): IIT Kanpur has clarified that they have not forecasted the fourth wave of COVID-19. It is an independent study done by a team of researchers from their Department of Mathematics and Statistics who have prepared a mathematical model and submitted the same to a preprint server for the experts to comment. The same is not peer reviewed.

Modelling studies are based on certain set of inputs either based on real world scenarios, or approximations of those inputs that are not available (which may vary in accuracy according to the technique used). Often these studies involve, taking a relatively small actual sample and extrapolate the result to the entire population. While this may achieve near accurate results for a small homogenous country/region, such techniques have failed repeatedly to give reliable results for a large, diverse population.

Given the emergence of variants of COVID-19 virus with variable transmissibility and other public health implications, Union Ministry of Health is closely following COVID-19 trajectory

globally and in the country along with various expert committees. In addition, network of Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) of laboratories is undertaking whole genome sequencing of samples for timely detection of mutant variants of virus.

Union Ministry of Health provides requisite technical and financial support to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to resurgence of cases in the country through National Health Mission, State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) and Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages.

Regular review meetings are undertaken with all relevant stakeholders including subject experts and states to review preparedness and response measures to address COVID-19 pandemic following the five-fold strategy of test-tack-treat-vaccinate and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour.
