

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2651
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025**

DISCREPANCIES IN COVID-19 DEATH DATA

2651. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) the number of COVID-19 deaths reported separately by the Civil Registration System (CRS), Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD), and the Ministry's official dashboard for 2020 and 2021;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any reconciliatory exercise to standardize and publish a single, authoritative national death toll from COVID-19; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to revise the official COVID-19 death figures in light of significantly higher all-cause mortality reflected in CRS and MCCD data during the same period, and the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c) 'Health' is a State subject. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a detailed technical guideline to States and UTs on appropriate recording of COVID-19 deaths, based on an internationally recognized system of classification of disease (ICD-10). Accordingly, the number of COVID-19 deaths were reported by States/UTs to this Ministry and the same was published in this Ministry's official dashboard.

Under Civil Registration System (CRS), the registration of births and deaths is done under the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969 (amended in 2023). At the Central level, Registrar General of India (RGI) only coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country, while the system is implemented by State Governments/UT Administrations.

While the CRS report does not provide cause of death, COVID-19 as a cause of death is captured under registered deaths reported under Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD). The periodicity of reporting differs between MCCD and MoHFW data given the flexibility provided under the RBD Act for delayed registration of deaths.
