

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1448
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023**

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL OXYGEN

**1448. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed its preparedness to tackle any new variant of COVID-19 in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is well prepared and equipped for providing Oxygen Supplies to meet any emergency like second wave of COVID-19 wherein lakhs of people lost lives for want of oxygen and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have fixed responsibilities on the nodal officers in all districts and also appointed nodal officers for making available adequate oxygen supplies for hospitals to meet demands in the event of any spurt in cases of COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof along with the capacities deployed, district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken adequate steps for oxygen availability in the country and if so, the details of availability of oxygen (quantities) during the last six months beginning July 2022;
- (e) whether the Government intends to set up National Medical Oxygen Grid for the timely delivery of medical oxygen across the country, particularly during health crisis and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other necessary steps taken to ensure that man-made disasters do not recur in future?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): Given the emergence of variants of COVID-19 virus with variable transmissibility and their possible health implications, Union Ministry of Health is following COVID-19 trajectory globally and in the country along with various expert committees. In addition, Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network laboratories conducts whole genome sequencing of samples for detection of mutant variants of the virus.

‘Health’ is a State subject. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is supporting States in their endeavour to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government to provide technical guidance and further strengthen health

infrastructure, availability of essential logistics including drugs and medical oxygen supply to manage COVID-19. All States/UTs have been provided with financial support under National Health Mission and Emergency COVID-19 Response Packages (ECRP) – I & II for health system strengthening in terms of availability of oxygen supported beds, ICU beds, ventilators, etc.

In order to address any surge in demand for medical oxygen, the Central Government has supported States in increasing the availability, streamlining the distribution and strengthening the oxygen storage infrastructure in the country. Some of the initiatives include:

- Under Emergency COVID Preparedness and Response package (ECRP-II), 938 Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Tanks and 1359 Medical Gas Pipeline Systems (MGPS) have been sanctioned to States to augment the availability of medical Oxygen in public healthcare system. Overall, the number of LMO tanks and oxygen storage capacity has been increased to 1,242 LMOs with a capacity of 15,622.
- As on 7th February, 2023, 4,135 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants with a total capacity of 4852 MT of medical oxygen have been sanctioned in the country to enhance institutional in-house capacity for medical oxygen production.
- More than 4 lakh oxygen cylinders and 1.43 lakh oxygen concentrators have been provided to States. Further, 1.5 lakh SpO₂ based oxygen control systems cylinders have been procured and distributed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- An online Oxygen Demand Aggregation System (ODAS) has been developed to ascertain the demand for medical oxygen from all health facilities. More than 9,000 active facilities are updating oxygen demand on the portal. Also, a platform known as ‘OxyCare’ has been developed to collect the status of all oxygen related equipment. The platform contains information regarding PSA plants, embedded Internet of Things (IoT) devices, oxygen cylinders, ventilators, oxygen concentrators and other medical oxygen related equipment.
- To avoid wastage of medical oxygen, guidelines on rational use of oxygen have been issued to all States. All States have been advised rational use of oxygen and to prohibit the wasteful usage by strict monitoring.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare monitors the situation closely and is in regular interaction with States through virtual meetings and formal communications to review preparedness and response measures to address COVID-19 pandemic.
