

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2874**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023**

**DECLINE IN COVID-19 CASES**

**2874 DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:**

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is witnessing a declining trajectory of COVID-19 cases, with less than 100 new cases being reported every day presently;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Government had felt that COVID-19 may be a threat again in the December last year and took precautionary measures accordingly; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c):** An average of 338 daily new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the country by States/UTs for the period 28<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

In the month of December 2022, while the trajectory of COVID-19 in India remained stable, a global upsurge in the same was noted during the same period, particularly from some Western Pacific and South East Asian countries. Accordingly, an additional requirement of pre-departure testing and uploading of negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test reports and self-health declaration form on Air Suvidha portal was made mandatory in the past for travellers coming from/transiting via these countries. However, based on declining COVID-19 trajectory in these countries, an updated guideline issued on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, wherein the additional requirements were dropped.

2% of the total passengers in all incoming international flights are required to undergo post arrival COVID-19 testing, irrespective of port of departure to monitor positive cases and their variants.

Further, in view of upcoming festivities/new year celebrations, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in December 2022, issued an Advisory to all States/UTs urging all States/UTs to focus on five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination against COVID-19 and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior while remaining prepared for any surge in COVID-19 trajectory. To take stock of the preparedness against any possible surge in COVID-19 trajectory, a nation-wide mock drill was also conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.

Union Health Ministry provides requisite technical guidance and support to all States/UTs to combat COVID-19 situation. 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), Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages I & II and PM - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

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