

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH MARCH, 2020**

QUARANTINED INDIAN PASSENGERS FROM CHINA

2648. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of passengers de-boarded in India from China in the last two months i.e. since the outbreak of Coronavirus infection in China;
- (b) the number of people quarantined and kept in quarantine wards by ITBP and other agencies, city-wise;
- (c) the number of people who have been listed positive, city-wise;
- (d) the various steps being taken by the Government to prevent the endemic nature of this virus in our country; and
- (e) whether the country is prepared to take up the challenge in case of an endemic situation and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (c): On 1st and 2nd February, 2020, a total of 654 passengers were brought from Wuhan, China and kept for 14 days' quarantine in Army Camp, Manesar and Indo-Tibetan Boarder Police (ITBP) Camp at Chhawla (Delhi). These evacuees were tested twice, reported negative for COVID-19 and were discharged on 17th and 18th February, 2020.

On 27th February, 2020, 112 persons (76 Indians and 36 foreign nationals) have been evacuated from Wuhan, China and kept for mandatory 14 days' quarantine at Army Camp, Manesar. 124 (119 Indians and 5 foreign nationals) have been evacuated from Japan and kept for mandatory 14 days' quarantine at ITBP Camp, Chhawla (Delhi). All these 236 passengers have been tested and reported negative for COVID-19.

As on 04.03.2020, a total of 6,11,167 incoming passengers of 6,241 flights have been screened. Cumulatively, a total of 28,529 passengers were placed under community surveillance in the Country through Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network. So far, 1,364 passengers were found to be symptomatic and referred to IDSP surveillance network. Till 04.03.2020, 29 confirmed cases of *COVID-19* disease have been reported in the Country, out of which three patients have recovered and discharged from the hospital.

(d) & (e): Government has taken note of the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and has initiated steps to monitor the situation in India and prevent its outbreak in India, as follows:

- I. Screening of passengers has been initiated at all 21 airports. Universal screening has been made mandatory for all flights from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Instructions have been issued to park these flights at earmarked aero-bridges to facilitate screening. Screening has also been initiated at all 12 major and 65 minor sea-ports and minor-ports wherein crew and passengers from China are expected. Besides this, screening has been initiated in border crossings. Arrangement have been made for in-flight announcements in incoming flights, filling of self-declaration forms by incoming passengers. Signages have been displayed at prominent locations at ports and airports for guidance and convenience of passengers. First Travel advisory was issued on 17th January 2020 and as situation is evolving, the travel advisories are accordingly getting revised. Extant advisories provide that:
 - (i) All Regular / eVisas issued to nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan issued on or before March 03, 2020 and who have not yet entered India, stand suspended with immediate effect.
 - (ii) Regular / eVisa issued to nationals of Peoples Republic of China issued on or before February 05, 2020 were suspended earlier, which shall remain in force.
 - (iii) Those requiring to travel to India due to compelling reasons, may seek fresh visa from the nearest Indian Embassy / Consulate.
 - (iv) Regular / eVisas issued to all other foreign nationals who have travelled to Peoples Republic of China, Iran, Italy, South Korea and Japan, on or after February 01, 2020 and who have not yet entered India, stand suspended with immediate effect.
 - (v) All foreign and Indian nationals entering into India from any port, are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form including personal particulars and travel history to Health officials and Immigration officials at all ports.
 - (vi) Passengers (foreign and Indian) arriving directly or indirectly from China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore must undergo medical screening at port of entry.
- II. The government has conducted training for the officers of ports, airports and border crossing points and has sensitized them on management of high risk pathogens such as Ebola and Coronavirus. They have been equipped with personal protective equipment. Thermal scanners and hand held thermal detectors have been placed at 21 airports. Additional doctors, nurses and paramedic staff have been deployed at the airports for smooth, effective and convenient screening of passengers.
- III. Guidelines on clinical management, infection prevention control, surveillance and sampling etc. have been disseminated to the States and also made available on the website of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The risk is communicated through media including social media.

- IV. Government of India has also initiated a series of action to prevent entry of the disease and to contain it. A group of ministers consisting of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Civil Aviation, Minister of State of Home Affairs, Minister of State of Health and Family welfare, Minister of State of Shipping under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister has been constituted and 3 meetings have been held on 03.02.2020, 13.02.2020 and 02.03.2020. Cabinet Secretary has taken series of meetings with all related Ministries such as Health, Defence, External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Home, Textiles, Pharma, Commerce and other officials including with State Chief Secretaries. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is constantly reviewing the evolving scenario. Series of Video Conferences have been held with Chief Secretaries and also with Secretaries, Health of the States / Union Territories (UTs).
- V. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has been geared up to track and follow up passengers coming from the affected countries particularly China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Government have made arrangements for testing of samples at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and 14 other Viral Research & Diagnostics Laboratories (VRDLs) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in different parts of the Country. Adequate laboratory reagents are available to test upto 25,000 samples. Sufficient stock of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) is maintained. A 24x7 Control Room has been activated. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) of the States/UTs have already been trained in management of MERS-CoV outbreak and Ebola Virus Disease.
- VI. The Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) under the Chairmanship of DGHS has held series of meetings to assess the risk and review the preparedness and response mechanisms to manage any case that might get imported to India. World Health Organisation (WHO), being represented in the JMG is providing Ministry with regular updates and technical information.
- VII. Senior officers of the Ministry of Health & family Welfare have been deputed to visit States / UTs to review the management of COVID-19 in each State / UT.
- VIII. Guidelines on Clinical Management of severe respiratory illness (SARI) in suspect / confirmed COVID-19 cases, Surveillance for human infection with COVID-19, Infection Prevention and Control in healthcare facilities, etc. have been placed in public domain on the website of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at web-link <https://mohfw.gov.in/node/4904>.
- IX. To check travel related transmission of COVID-19, all incoming passengers are mandatorily required to fill self-declaration form at the port of entry in India.
- VIII. Government is issuing Press Releases on regular basis. Information about travel advisory and other pertinent issues is also being shared on social media.

In the light of evolving situation, Government of India and State Governments are working in close coordination to manage any eventuality arising out of the COVID-19.