

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3353
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2020**

SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

3353. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has reached out to China or other friendly neighbouring countries to extend India's support to fight Coronavirus, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any instructions from WHO or United Nations on how to protect India from spread of Coronavirus, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is in support of Coronavirus being given a 'pandemic' status, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Government of India has undertaken evacuation operations from several countries in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak to bring back Indian citizens as well as nationals from other countries. As on 11.03.2020, Government of India has evacuated 948 passengers from COVID-19 affected countries including China and Japan. Out of these, 900 are Indian citizens and 48 belonging to different nationalities including Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, USA, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Peru.

Government of India has also extended support to Maldives and Iran in testing samples and Bhutan in managing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). On 07.03.2020, 108 samples were received from Iran. These samples are being tested at the laboratory of AIIMS. Also, six scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have been stationed in Iran. Equipment and reagents have also been dispatched to enable them to setup a laboratory.

(b): The Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services (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.

(c): Pandemic status to diseases is given by WHO which has declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) 'pandemic' on 11.03.2020.