

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 256**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020/BHADRAPADA 24, 1942 (SAKA)

INVOKING OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT

256. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disaster Management Act, 2005 was invoked for the first time in India to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has failed to understand the spread of COVID-19 in the country;

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto along with the steps/initiatives being taken by the NDMA during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(e) whether India's lockdown has been termed as one of the most strictly imposed in the world but the curve of spread of the disease has neither declined nor flattened;

(f) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(g) the other initiatives/steps being taken by the Government for management and control of COVID 19 pandemic in the Country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (d): Since the enactment of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005, it has been implemented at National, States/UTs and District levels as per the requirement.

COVID-19 pandemic, being a novel virus, provisions of DM Act were invoked for the first time by the various State/UT Governments, before the national Lockdown was announced on 24th March, 2020 by the Central Government under the provisions of DM Act, 2005, on the recommendation of the NDMA.

(e) to (g): On the Lockdown measures taken by Government of India, World Health Organization (WHO) has observed that India's response to COVID-19 has been pre-emptive, pro-active and graded with high –level political commitment and a 'whole government' approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. By imposing country-wide Lockdown, India successfully blunted the aggressive spread of COVID. The period of Lockdown helped the nation to create much required additional health infrastructure. During this time, dedicated isolation beds recorded an increase of 22 times and dedicated ICU beds above 14 times to what existed in March 2020. Similarly, laboratory capacity for testing COVID was increased nearly 10 times during this time. Whereas there was no indigenous manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs), with the requisite standards, at that point in time, the country is now self-sufficient and in a position to export the same. Similarly, very limited indigenous manufacturing capacity was available for masks, ventilators, etc. at the time of Lockdown, was also enhanced to attain self-reliance in this regard.

During this period, requirement of various cadres of personnel and volunteers across sectors and departments for COVID related works and maintenance of

other essential medical services were worked out, and trained through resources made available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and iGOT an online platform (<https://igot.gov.in/igot/>).

It has been estimated that the decision of Lockdown, by slowing down the progress of pandemic in India, has prevented 14–29 lakh cases and 37–78 thousand deaths.