

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1987  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**GUIDELINES TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19 VARIANT**

**1987. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued guidelines to States/UTs for preventing the spread of new variant/ strain of COVID-19;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other remedial measures taken by the Government to contain the COVID-19 virus?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b): Yes. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued Standard Operating Procedure for Epidemiological Surveillance & Response for the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 for preventing the spread of new variant / strain of covid-19 on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and updated on 30.01.2021 (available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ExtensionofvalidityofStandardOperatingProcedureforEpidemiologicalSurveillance&ResponseforthenewvariantofSARSCoV2.pdf>)
- (c): An updated brief action taken report is attached as **Annexure**.

**COVID-19: Action Taken Report (as on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021)**

Government of India has taken a series of actions to prevent, control and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. India followed a whole of Government and whole of society approach. Hon'ble Prime Minister, a High-level Group of Ministers (GoM), Cabinet Secretary, Committee of Secretaries and senior officers in MoHFW continue to monitor public health response to COVID-19 in the country.

The public health actions were taken in a pre-emptive, pro-active, graded manner based on the evolving scenario. A number of travel advisories were issued restricting inflow of international travelers, till such time, commercial flights were suspended on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Till then, a total of 14,154 flights with 15,24,266 passengers have been screened at these airports.

International travelers traveling to India under Vande Bharat Mission and Transport Bubble scheme are being screened at the airport. As on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a total of 42.5 lakh passengers and crew members have been screened at the airports. It is a pre-requisite for such travelers to bring negative COVID-19 test reports on get themselves at the airport, failing they have to undergo institutional quarantine.

In view of detection of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 in United Kingdom, all flights originating from U.K into India were suspended temporarily from 22<sup>nd</sup> December to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Regulated resumption of limited flights originating from United Kingdom (UK) to India has been allowed from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Community surveillance through Integrated Disease Surveillance Program is ongoing in containment zones in accordance with COVID-19 containment plan.

The laboratory network is continuously being strengthened. As of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021, total operational (initiated independent testing) government laboratories reporting to ICMR is 1214. In addition, 1159 Private Laboratories have been approved for COVID-19 Testing. A total of 20,33,24,655 samples have been tested as on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. At present India is testing about a 7-8 lakh samples a day. The cumulative confirmation percentage of samples tested has been falling steadily and is currently at 5.34%. Many States are recording a confirmation percentage of less than 5% (recommended by WHO).

As on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a total of 15,231 COVID treatment facilities with 12,49,538 dedicated isolation bed without O2 support have been created. Also, a total of 2,67,394 oxygen supported isolation beds and 79259 ICU beds (including 40,262 ventilator beds).

Clinical management guidelines for COVID-19 have been updated from time to time based on the emerging evidence and have been widely disseminated. To study more about COVID sequelae, follow up clinics have been established in AIIMS and other Central Government hospitals. A Post-COVID Management Protocol was released by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, that followed a holistic approach – a blend of treatment from modern medicine as well as AYUSH system of medicine.

States are being supported in terms of supply of logistics. So far 1.69 crore of PPE Kits, 4.08 crores N-95 masks, 11.16 crore tablets of Hydroxychloroquine, 38,948 ventilators and 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders have been supplied to States/UTs/ Central Government hospitals so far (as reported on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021). In addition, oxygen concentrators have also been supplied to States.

On the drug development front, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the GoI, has constituted a S&T Core Group on COVID19. Under the aegis of the S&T Core Group on COVID19, a Task Force has been constituted focused on Repurposing of Drugs for COVID-19.

Two COVID-19 vaccines (Covishield & Covaxin) have received approval of Drug Controller General for Restricted Emergency Use and a rollout of the same has been started from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Both the vaccines have established safety & immunogenicity. As on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, a total of 66,11,561 persons have been vaccinated against COVID-19. In addition, 4 other vaccines (from Zydus Cadila, Sputnik V, Biological E and Gennova) are in various phases of clinical trial in India.

Logistic requirements, preparedness planning and resource allocation has been put up in place. In India more than 28,000 cold chain points are being utilized to store and distribute COVID-19 vaccine to ensure that vaccine reach to the last point. GOI/ manufacturers will distribute vaccines to state stores. States will distribute this further to regional, divisional and district stores.

Co-WIN: Digital Platform for COVID 19 Vaccination Delivery has been developed and is being used for inventory management and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, including tracking of the vaccination process.

Various cadres of personnel and volunteers across sectors and departments for COVID related works and maintenance of other essential medical services have been worked out, trained through resources made available on the website of MoHFW, iGOT (online platform) by DOPT (<https://igot.gov.in/igot/>). Close to 1.36 million courses have been registered into till date. This includes 5,710 Doctors, 86,137 AYUSH professionals, 4,103 Nurses, 967 Allied Health Professionals, 5,884 frontline workers, 2,70,910 volunteers and 26,25,914 other participants. About 19.22 lakh course completions have taken place on iGOT- Diksha platform.

MoHFW website is being daily to provide general public with information on current status of COVID-19 spread in India. Communication material is also being hosted on MoHFW website and through social media. Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 launched the “Jan Andolan for COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior” campaign in view of the upcoming festivals and winter season as well as the opening up of the economy. The campaign aims to encourage People’s Participation (Jan Andolan). It endeavors to be a low-cost high intensity campaign with the key messages of “Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene”.

Ministry of Ayush, Department of Health Research, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Bio-technology, Defence Research Development Organization and other research institutions are in the forefront of research ranging from epidemiology, natural history of the disease, genomics, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines etc.

Under the ‘India COVID19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness package’ of Rs 15,000 crores has been approved by the Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 with an objective to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19. As up to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Rs 11,361.67 have been utilized for the same. Of this, Rs.6309.90 crore has been released to the States/UTs, through Agency - National Health Mission (NHM).