

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 695  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> February, 2021**

**SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS**

**695. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the date on which COVID-19 virus was first noticed in India;
- (b) if so, the details of preventive measures taken to contain the entry or delay the spread of the virus across the country; and
- (c) the details of the budget provisions made and actual utilisation thereof to meet the expenses of preventive management and also mitigate adverse social impact of COVID-19?

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

- (a) India's first case of COVID-19 was reported on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The case was a student studying in Wuhan, China.
- (b): A brief note on actions taken by Government of India to contain the entry and delay the spread of virus across the country is attached as **Annexure**.
- (c) 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 15th January 2021, Rs 11, 361.67 Crores have been utilized for the same.

## Brief note on action taken by Government of India to manage COVID-19

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. In addition, point of entry screening was also initiated at 12 major seaports, 65 minor seaports and international land border crossings.

International travelers traveling to India under Vande Bharat Mission and Transport Bubble scheme are being screened at the airport. As on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, a total of 40.4 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. Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent spread of mutant SARS-CoV-2 variant spread in the country:

- i. All flights to UK were banned till from December 23, 2020 to 7th January 2021.
- ii. Resumption of limited international flight services to/from UK has been allowed with effect from 8th January 2021 in a calibrated manner by initially allowing flight movement to/from UK to five international airports i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai only.
- iii. All the passengers arriving from U.K. should be carrying Negative RT-PCR Test Report for which test should have been conducted within 72 hours prior to undertaking the journey.
- iv. All international passengers who arrived in India from UK or transit through UK are again mandatorily tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR at the airport.
- v. All passengers and their contacts who tested positive for RT-PCR are isolated, their samples are sent for whole genome sequencing to detect UK variant.
- vi. All international passengers who test negative at Airports are quarantined for 14 days.
- vii. Detailed guidelines are available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ExtensionofvalidityofStandardOperatingProcedureforEpidemiologicalSurveillance&ResponseforthenewvariantofSARSCoV2.pdf>

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

The laboratory network is continuously being strengthened. As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, total operational (initiated independent testing) government laboratories reporting to ICMR is 1214. In addition, 1147 Private Laboratories have been approved for COVID-19 Testing. A total of 19,77,52,057 samples have been tested as on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. At present India is testing about a 7-8 lakh samples a day.

As on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, a total of 15,288 COVID treatment facilities with 12,54,128 dedicated isolation bed without O<sub>2</sub> support have been created. Also, a total of 2,67,925 oxygen supported isolation beds and 79,439 ICU beds (including 40,327 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, 36,948 ventilators and 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders have been supplied to States/UTs/ Central Government hospitals so far (as reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021). In addition, oxygen concentrators are also being 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, a total of 39,50,156 persons have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

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.

A 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.

In addition to Covishield & Covaxin, 4 other vaccines (from Zydus Cadila, Sputnik V, Biological E and Gennova) are in various phases of clinical trial in India.

Various cadres of personnel and volunteers across sectors and departments for COVID related works and maintenance of other essential medical services have been , 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.

MoHFW website is being updated

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 8th 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.