

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 790
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

COVID PANDEMIC

790. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the several difficulties faced by the people of North Bengal due to lack of hospitals and medical facilities during the COVID pandemic, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of financial assistance provided for improving healthcare infrastructure in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts in the wake of COVID pandemic; and
- (c) the medicines, testing equipment, PPE Kits, sanitizers, and other safety kits provided in the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong in the wake of COVID pandemic?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): 'Health' being a state subject, the primary responsibility of providing medical care and further strengthening healthcare system lies with the State Governments.

However, all States/UTs (including Government of West Bengal) are being provided required technical and financial assistance for strengthening of their healthcare system including management of the COVID-19 Public Health challenge from time to time.

All the States/UTs are provided with necessary financial support under India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package. Under the said package, Grants in aid of Rs. 231.46 Crores have been released to the State Government of West Bengal. States utilize these funds as per their local context and arising needs for the effective management of COVID-19.

(c): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has supplied the following to State Government of West Bengal as on date in the wake of Covid 19 pandemic: -

- N95 Masks - 18.38 lakhs
- PPE Kits - 4.85 lakhs
- HCQ Tablets - 43.5 lakhs
- Ventilator – 1120

- RNA Extraction kits – 171132
- Viral Transport Medium – 118570
- RT-PCR Kits – 890212
- Truenat COVID test – 21900
- Xpert COVID Cartridges – 2200
- RT PCR Machines – 6
- Automated RNA Extraction Machines – 6

The allocation of above mentioned essential medical equipment to the districts in the State is under the purview of the concerned State Governments. States utilize these funds as per their local context and arising needs for the effective management of COVID-19.