

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 875
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

PERMANENT PROTOCOL FOR UNFORSEEN PANDEMIC

875. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to develop permanent protocol to face unforeseen pandemics in future, such as the COVID-19, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor; and
- (b) whether the Government has any specific body committee/mechanism to monitor the graphical spread of the COVID-19 and make arrangements for providing the treatment and sufficient beds, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): As a signatory to International Health Regulations, 2005, Government of India remains committed to developing and further strengthening core capacities required to detect, assess, notify and report events, and respond to public health risks and emergencies of national and international concern.

In this direction Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has developed a comprehensive National Pandemic Preparedness Plan, which was last revisited in a consultative workshop held in December, 2019.

During this exercise various facets of pandemic preparedness including (i) Global developments and key WHO guidance, (ii) Governance issues, (iii) Surveillance, (iv) Medical response, (v) Pharmaceutical and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions, (vi) Risk Communications and community engagement were examined in consultation with WHO, MoHFW, and States.

(b): Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, under extant provisions of DM Act constituted 11 Empowered Groups on different aspects of COVID-19 management in the country to fast track informed decisions on issues. Empowered Groups I, II and III, specifically dealt with (i) medical emergency planning, (ii) availability of hospitals, isolation and quarantine facility, disease surveillance and testing, (iii) ensuring availability of essential medical equipment. These Empowered Groups have submitted their projections, which have been shared with State

Governments and relevant Central Ministries and Departments to prepare for any potential surge in healthcare needs and demands.

In addition, Committee of Secretaries under Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary has monitored the situation continuously and provided inter-sectoral coordination at the highest level.

Technical committees like the Joint Monitoring Group under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and the National Task Force under Indian Council of Medical Research have monitored the evolving COVID-19 situation in the country on a regular basis and provided technical inputs for the same.