

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED Q. No 3048  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**TREATMENT OF MEDIA PERSON AS FRONTLINE WORKERS**

**3048 SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:**

**SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the number of media personnel who have contracted COVID-19 and died from the disease, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to include media personnel within the ambit of frontline workers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate or has formulated financial assistance programs/ schemes for those media personnel whose livelihood, health and income has been affected by COVID-19 and if so, the details of the package thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (d) Health is a state subject. Detailed guidelines for reporting of deaths have been issued by Union Health Ministry to all States/UTs. Accordingly, all States/UTs report cases and deaths to Union Health Ministry on a regular basis. As on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, a total of 4,24,773 death have been reported by States/UTs.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting undertook a special drive for providing financial assistance to the families of journalists who succumbed to COVID-19. On the basis of applications received by the Press Information Bureau, which fulfill the criteria laid under the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, a

sum of Rs. 5.05 crore was approved during 2020 and 2021 for financial assistance at a rate of Rs.5 Lakh/family to each of 101 families of journalists who died due to COVID-19.