

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED Q. No 3192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6th AUGUST 2021**

TREATING CREMATORIUM WORKERS AS FRONTLINE

3192. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:

SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- a) whether the Government is aware of the number of crematorium workers, funeral service workers and burial site workers who have contracted and died from COVID-19;
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the Government plans to include burial, crematorium and funeral service workers within the ambit of frontline workers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- d) whether the Government has formulated or has plans to formulate a financial assistance package including protection kits, priority vaccination for these workers; and
- e) if so, 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 (e)

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.

ICMR on 10th May 2020 issued 'Guidance for appropriate recording of COVID-19 related deaths in India'

(Available at: https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/techdoc/Guidance_appropriate_recording_of_related_deaths_India.pdf). This was widely disseminated among States/UTs.

MoHFW vide letter dated 9th October 2020 has conveyed to States/UTs, WHO and ICMR guidelines on correct recording of COVID-19 related deaths in accordance with globally accepted ICD-10 classification and also urged states to undertake periodic death audits with the aim to improve quality of healthcare services by suitable corrective measures. States/UTs were also provided with a proforma for undertaking death audits in this regard.

The COVID-19 management toolkit for District Collectors shared by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 2nd April 2021 with states, also highlighted the need for deaths audits and follow up action as one of the key monitoring parameters.

167 Central teams deployed to 33 states/UTs have also reiterated need for correct recording of deaths and undertake periodic death audits.

The data of deaths are obtained from States/UTs. As on 3rd August 2021, a total of 4,25,195 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported by States/UTs.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued COVID-19: Guidelines on Dead Body Management on 15th March 2020 (available at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/1584423700568_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf), wherein crematorium/ burial ground staff have been advised the protocol to be followed while handling dead bodies so as to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection.

Cremation ground staff are included in the category of frontline workers and as a priority group for COVID-19 vaccination.

(Available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/COVID19VaccineOG111Chapter16.pdf>)