

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.745  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2021**

**SHORTAGE OF MULTIPLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS**

**745. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:  
SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:  
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:  
SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:  
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:  
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

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

- (a) whether the country faced acute shortage of oxygen, ventilators and critical care medicines during recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of deaths reported due to shortage of these items and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of proposals accepted and financial grants released by the Government for setting up of oxygen plants during the last two years, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the quantum of funds released and utilised on the purchase of multiple medical equipments including ventilators and critical care medicines since January 2020 and also the number of these provided to hospitals, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to improve oxygen production and set up more oxygen bed and ventilators to fight the coming waves of Covid-19; and
- (f) whether the Government has affixed any responsibility on sudden non-provisioning of oxygen by the authorities that resulted into death of lakhs of people and if so, the details thereof and steps taken to curb reoccurrence of such disasters in future?

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

(a) to (f): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare monitors cases of COVID-19 and its management as per the details provided by the States. A surge in cases which was noted during May 2021, and a peak of more than 4 lakh cases per day was observed during the period straining the available health infrastructure at the state level.

Health is a state subject. MoHFW 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. In addition, the issue of correct and timely reporting of deaths has also been stressed to all States/UTs through video conferences and formal communication. Accordingly, the details are obtained from states/UTs.

It has been noted that some of the states based on reconciliation of mortality data have also revised the reported COVID-19 deaths. All states have also been advised that while reconciling the data, the details of deaths shall be indicated date wise & district wise to get correct picture of the pandemic. States have also been regularly advised to undertake death audit to ascertain the cause of deaths and undertake measures for improving quality of healthcare services.

Union Government has provided the required technical support and has also supported the states through logistic and financial support to further strengthen the existing health infrastructure.

Some of the ongoing initiatives include:

- Government of India, to supplement the hospital facilities has roped in tertiary care hospitals under ESIC, Defence, Railways, paramilitary forces, Steel Ministry etc. Further, many large temporary treatment facilities were established by DRDO to manage surge in COVID-19 cases in the country.
- Due to concerted actions of Central and State Governments, the isolation bed capacity and ICU bed capacity which was only 10,180 and 2,168 before the first lockdown (as on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) in being enhanced continuously and is currently at 18,21,845 isolation beds and 1,22,035 ICU beds (as on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021).
- The daily liquid medical oxygen (LMO) production, which was about 5700 MTs per day in August 2020 increased to a high of 9690 MTs as on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This was done by enhancement of LMO production in steel plants as well as in other LMO plants.
- A system for real-time monitoring of oxygen production in steel plants and distribution of oxygen to States/UTs was also put in place.
- Restrictions were imposed on industrial use of oxygen.
- A dynamic and transparent framework for allocation of medical oxygen in consultation with States/UTs and all the stakeholders such as relevant Ministries, manufacturers/suppliers of liquid oxygen etc. has been prepared.
- Online digital solutions viz. Oxygen Demand Aggregation system (ODAS) and Oxygen Digital Tracking System (ODTS) have been developed to ascertain the demand for medical oxygen from all medical facilities and to track their transportation.
- To avoid wastage of medical oxygen, guidelines on rational use of oxygen were issued on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and further revised and disseminated to States on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders were procured in April and May of 2020 and distributed to States. Further orders for additional 1,27,000 cylinders have been placed on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, (54,000 jumbo cylinders (D type) and 73,000 regular cylinders (B type). Deliveries of the same have started and 24,207 (24,511 B-type and 8,893 D-type) cylinders have been delivered as on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. In addition, around 4962 B-type and 1895 D-type cylinders are in-transit.
- To generate oxygen at the health facility level, PSA plants are being established in hospitals, especially in far flung areas enabling the hospitals to become self-sufficient in generation of oxygen for their needs and thereby, reduce the burden on the medical oxygen supply grid across the country.

- Further, to fast-track the availability of Medical Oxygen in rural and peri-urban areas, more than 18,000 Oxygen Concentrators have been allocated to various States.
- Remdesivir is a patented drug, manufactured in India under voluntary licenses granted by Gilead Life Sciences USA (the patent holder) to 7 Indian pharmaceutical companies. Manufacturing capacity was augmented from 38 lakh vials per month to nearly 122 lakh vials per month. In addition, 40 additional manufacturing sites were approved by the CDSCO, thus increasing the manufacturing sites from 22 to 62.
- All States/UT and State Drugs Controllers have been requested to verify stock of the drug and check other malpractices and take effective steps to curb hoarding and black marketing of Remdesivir.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare also continues to provide technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19. So far more than 150 guidelines/advisories/SoPs/plans have been provided to States/UTs.
- During the F.Y. 2019-20 funds to the tune of Rs.1113.21 crore was released to the States/UTs under NHM towards management and containment of COVID-19 pandemic. Details are given at **Annexure I**.
- During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs.8257.88 crore has been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package, through Agency - National Health Mission (NHM). Details are given at **Annexure II**. The funds are released as total grants and not distributed item wise.
- In addition, 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II' has also been approved by the Cabinet with Rs 23,123 crores (with Rs. 15,000 Cr as Central Component & Rs 8,123 as State component) and is to be implemented from 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022. It includes support to State/UT level for ramping up Health Infrastructure including those in rural, tribal and peri-urban areas closer to the community, providing support for procurement of drugs and diagnostics to enhance service delivery at district and sub district levels for management of COVID-19 cases (including pediatric care) and for maintaining a buffer of drugs, support for IT Interventions such as implementation of Hospital Management Information System and expanding access to tele-consultations in all districts, and support for capacity building and training for all aspects of management of COVID-19.

**Central Release of Grants in aid for management and containment COVID-19**

S. No.	Name of the State /UTs	Central Releases (2019-20) In Rs. Crore
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.74
2	Andhra Pradesh	37.11
3	Arunachal Pradesh	8.91
4	Assam	72.73
5	Bihar	66.79
6	Chandigarh	1.04
7	Chhattisgarh	25.97
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.52
9	Daman & Diu	0.45
10	Delhi	22.26
11	Goa	1.48
12	Gujarat	29.69
13	Haryana	37.11
14	Himachal Pradesh	18.55
15	Jammu & Kashmir (including Ladakh)	29.69
16	Jharkhand	25.97
17	Karnataka	59.37
18	Kerala	74.21
19	Lakshadweep	0.22
20	Ladakh	-
21	Madhya Pradesh	55.66
22	Maharashtra	74.21
23	Manipur	5.94
24	Meghalaya	5.94
25	Mizoram	3.71
26	Nagaland	3.71
27	Orissa	37.11
28	Puducherry	0.74
29	Punjab	40.82
30	Rajasthan	85.35
31	Sikkim	2.98
32	Tamil Nadu	48.24
33	Telangana	33.40
34	Tripura	7.42
35	Uttar Pradesh	132.09
36	Uttarakhand	18.55
37	West Bengal	44.53
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,113.21</b>

**Note:**

1. For the FY 2020-21, the UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined.

**Central Release of Grants in aid under the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package during the FY 2020-21**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the State /UTs</b>	<b>Central Releases In Rs. Crore</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14.80
2	Andhra Pradesh	422.67
3	Arunachal Pradesh	21.96
4	Assam	216.69
5	Bihar	193.94
6	Chandigarh	35.92
7	Chhattisgarh	109.21
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	4.67
9	Delhi	787.91
10	Goa	17.65
11	Gujarat	304.16
12	Haryana	187.71
13	Himachal Pradesh	54.48
14	Jammu & Kashmir	194.58
15	Jharkhand	70.84
16	Karnataka	409.63
17	Kerala	573.96
18	Ladakh	44.77
19	Lakshadweep	0.79
20	Madhya Pradesh	286.57
21	Maharashtra	1,185.12
22	Manipur	19.92
23	Meghalaya	14.82
24	Mizoram	8.86
25	Nagaland	10.27
26	Orissa	146.44
27	Puducherry	23.35
28	Punjab	165.28
29	Rajasthan	426.39
30	Sikkim	7.16
31	Tamil Nadu	868.09
32	Telangana	386.37
33	Tripura	23.21
34	Uttar Pradesh	541.56
35	Uttarakhand	72.25
36	West Bengal	295.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,147.28</b>
	Health Insurance	110.6
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,257.88</b>