

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.85  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2021  
DEATHS DUE TO OXYGEN SHORTAGE**

**\*85. SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government had sought report/data from States/UTs regarding deaths of Covid patients due to oxygen shortage in various hospitals across the country during the second wave of the pandemic, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received the above data from States/UTs except for Punjab, if so, the details thereof along with the number of deaths reported in each State/UT;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for States/UTs to record the deaths due to oxygen shortage, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been conducted or action has been taken by the Government regarding death of Covid patients due to oxygen shortage and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken to ensure that States/UTs have sufficient supply of medical oxygen in anticipation of potential future waves of COVID-19?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 85\* FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

(a) to (e) Government has sought data from States/UTs regarding deaths of COVID-19 patients due to oxygen shortage across the country during the second surge of the pandemic. Request for data on the subject was emailed to all States/UTs including the last email sent on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021. In response, only two states (Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh) have responded. Punjab has emailed that in Punjab, 4 suspected deaths have occurred due to lack of oxygen in one hospital (private) in Amritsar district.

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/techdoc/Guidance_appropriate_recording_of_related_deaths_India.pdf)).

MoHFW vide letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 with states, also highlighted the need for deaths audits and follow up action as one of the key monitoring parameters.

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

Health is a State subject. Government of India is supporting States in their endeavor to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19. Various initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to provide technical guidance and further strengthen health infrastructure, availability of essential logistics including drugs and medical oxygen supply to manage COVID-19.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 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. This includes technical guidance on myriad of issues ranging from surveillance and containment of COVID-19, travel advisories, clinical management protocols for adults and children, management of mucormycosis, rational use of oxygen, SOPs for safe resumption of activities in workplaces, markets, religious places etc.

Besides this all States/UTs are also being provided financial support through various avenues including National Health Mission, Emergency COVID-19 Response Packages and State Disaster Response Funds to assist in management of COVID-19 pandemic.

As with regards to provisioning of medical oxygen, the following initiatives have been undertaken by Government of India:

- i. States have been supported with supply of oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrators. 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 21.04.2021 (54,000 jumbo cylinders (D type) and 73,000 regular cylinders (B type) and same has been delivered to all States and UTs. One lakh Oxygen Concentrators are being procured and distributed to States under PM CARES Fund. Guidance note has been prepared and circulated to States by MoHFW on 08.06.2021 regarding oxygen concentrators in primary health facilities.
- ii. States are also being supported in terms of installation of Oxygen concentrator plants/ PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption plants) plants.
- iii. As many as 1563 PSA plants are being established by the Government of India. These includes 1225 PSA plants being installed under PM CARES Fund in every district of the country. The remaining 338 Plants (110 by M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas, 21 by M/o power, 56 by M/o Coal, 95 by M/o Railways and 57 by foreign grants) are from other sources. As on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, all the PSA plants sanctioned under PM-CARES have been commissioned.
- iv. Further, States have also been requested to set up similar oxygen generation plants in the remaining public health facilities.

- v. Oxygen Demand Aggregation system (ODAS) which is an online digital solution has now been developed to ascertain the demand for medical oxygen from all medical facilities based on bed availability and occupancy and aggregating them at the State level.
- vi. An Oxygen Digital Tracking System (ODTS) to track the daily allocations of oxygen, their dispatch and deliveries, including movement of oxygen tankers has also been developed and put in place.
- vii. All the States have been advised rational use of oxygen and to prohibit the wasteful usage by strict monitoring. The guidelines on rational use of oxygen were issued on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. These were further revised and disseminated to States on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- viii. States have also been advised to undertake oxygen consumption audit in hospitals including private hospitals and to undertake facility-wise/hospital-wise oxygen inventory mapping and advance planning for timely replenishment so that there is no stock out.