

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. No 2164
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH December, 2021**

ASSISTANCE TO GUJARAT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2164. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA

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

- (a) the extent to which the opportunity given by COVID-19 pandemic for strengthening health infrastructure in the country could be materialized, particularly at the primary level;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Gujarat is one of the top States which is conducting COVID-19 tests in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of financial and other assistance sought by the State Government of Gujarat and extended by Government during the COVID time?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DR BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c) Government of India has worked towards the challenge posed by COVID-19 pandemic to further strengthen the existing public health system, research & development and manufacturing capabilities available with the country for mitigating the impact of public health emergencies. This has been exemplified by capacities developed indigenously for manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipment, testing kits, testing reagents, ventilators etc., for many of which India was reliant on imports previously.

Committed to universalization of quality and affordable healthcare services as envisioned under National Health Policy 2017, Government of India under Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness centers initiative has established 76,773 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs). Further, under PM-ABHIM, steps are taken for strengthening of Health and Wellness Centers in villages and cities for early detection of diseases as well as by addition of new critical care-related beds at district level hospitals.

As on 8th December 2021, as reported by the State, Gujarat has so far conducted 2,57,85,702 COVID-19 tests. For the last 2 weeks (25th November to 8th December 2021), Gujarat has conducted an average of 2,70,068 COVID-19 tests per week.

Government of India is supporting States in their endeavor to manage COVID-19 since the beginning of pandemic. Requisite support is provided to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. 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.

States/UTs have also been provided financial support through various avenues including National Health Mission and State Disaster Response Funds. Further, as special package to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across the country financial assistance has been provided under Emergency COVID-19 Response Packages.

During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs. 8257.88 crore has been released to the States/UTs towards the ECRP. This provided support to States for health infrastructure strengthening, expansion of laboratory network, surveillance and contact tracing, procurement of PPEs, N-95 masks, ventilators etc. Of this, Rs. 304.16 Crore have been released to State Government of Gujarat.

In addition, ECRP -II has also been approved by the Cabinet with Rs 23,123 crores (with Rs. 15,000 Cr as Central Component & Rs 8,123 Cr as State component) and is implemented from 1st July 2021. This 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 (HMIS) and expanding access to tele-consultations in all districts, and support for capacity building and training for all aspects of management of COVID-19. A total of Rs. 239.61 crore has been released for the State of Gujarat so far.