

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2278  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2021**

**MEDAL FOR HEALTH WORKERS**

**2278. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to institute any award/medal for health workers and other frontline people to recognize their distinguished service in the work against COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the data of such health workers/frontline workers honored by Government previously?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken a number of steps to improve wellbeing of healthcare workers managing COVID-19. Few of the actions taken in this regard include:

- With the launch of COVID-19 vaccination initiative on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Healthcare workers were identified as one of the first priority group. State Governments/ UT administrations have been repeatedly urged to ensure that the medical professionals engaged in Covid related work are suitably vaccinated.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control practices to the State Governments to minimize the risk of infection to healthcare workers.
- For high-risk exposures, healthcare workers are provided with a quarantine period initially for one week and thereafter taking the profile of the health worker a decision to be taken for further period of one week. An advisory to this effect for managing health care workers

working in COVID and Non-COVID areas of the hospital was issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

- MoHFW on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, as per directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court in a batch of writ petitions and in exercise of powers delegated under section 10(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, States/UTs have been directed to ensure that salaries of doctors and healthcare workers during COVID-19 related duties shall be released on time.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in consultation with Department of Personnel Training has also directed State Governments to consider quarantine period of healthcare workers as 'on duty'.
- Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also issued direction to the Chief Secretary of the States/Union Territories on provision for accommodation facilities for quarantine of healthcare workers. States/UTs were also advised to explore various rostering options.
- In the context of COVID-19, the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020. Further this ordinance was brought before the parliament has been passed and notified on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The amendment provides for safety and security of Health care Service Personnel (HSPs) from acts of violence.
- Life insurance benefits (Rs. 50 lakhs to 22.12 lakh healthcare providers) are provided under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP): Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19. The benefits under the said scheme have been extended w.e.f. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 for a further period of 180 days.

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