

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2280
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2021**

THIRD WAVE AND DELTA VARIANT

**2280. SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR:
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government in anticipation of the third wave has made adequate arrangement for Remdesivir injection and other essential medicines including issuing guidelines for the treatment of children, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to check the laxity on the part of people in following COVID-19 appropriate behaviour in the country;
- (c) the number of cases of Delta and Delta plus variant reported in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the vaccination is not very effective against the new variant; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the new variant?

ANSWER

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

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

A few of the interventions are as below:

- 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.

- Adherence to COVID-19 appropriate behaviors (use of mask/face cover, physical distancing, respiratory and hand hygiene has been stressed in all SOP's/guidelines/advisories issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This has also been reiterated by Ministry of Home Affairs in orders issued from time to time under Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The issue of ensuring adherence to COVID-19 appropriate behaviors has been reiterated through formal communications as well as during video conferences with all States/UTs. States have been urged to further reinforce IEC activities COVID-19 appropriate behaviors through inter-sectoral coordination, involvement of community leaders, opinion makers, community-based organization, market/traders' associations etc.
- Guidelines on Clinical management of COVID-19 continues to be updated with emerging scientific evidence. The treatment protocol for adults was last updated on 24th May 2021 and has been widely circulated.
- Guidelines for management of COVID-19 in children was issued on 18th June 2021. The guideline covers guidance on management of acute presentation of COVID-19 as well as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) in children and adolescents found temporally related to COVID-19.
- States are supported in terms of supply of logistics which includes PPE Kits, N-95 masks, ventilators, drugs etc.
- Production and availability of Remdesivir injection and other essential medicines are monitored jointly by Department of Pharmaceuticals, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) & Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to ensure its availability.
- Funding support has been provided to all States/UTs under Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages for infrastructure strengthening including availability of medical oxygen and buffer stock of identified drugs to be utilized for clinical management of COVID-19 patients.

The State/UT-wise details of number of cases of Delta and Delta plus variant reported in the country, is at **Annexure**. It is to be noted that delta plus is a sub lineage of Delta with 3 mutations in spike (K417N, V70F, and W258L) These are seen in AY1, AY2, AY3 and AY4.2 sublineage.

As per currently available information, there is no evidence to point that vaccines utilized in India for COVID-19 vaccination are not effective against these new variants.

A number of mutated variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus have been detected globally. Information on the same is shared by laboratories undertaking genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 virus globally. In response to reports of such mutated variants 'Guidelines on international arrivals' are reviewed and revised from time to time. The last update was done on 30th November 2021 which requires all international travelers arriving in India to upload a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test report for a test done within 72 hrs before departure to India. Also, travelers coming from

countries designated as 'at-risk', are additionally required to undergo post-arrival testing twice (on arrival and on 8th day) and also undergo mandatory home quarantine for 7 days' post arrival in India.

Union Ministry of Health & FW, MoHFW has also coordinated with and provided guidelines to states to follow precautionary measures against variant of concern, B.1.1.529 (Omicron variant). Some of these are:

- Testing of samples of international travelers coming from "At Risk" countries on 1st Day and retesting on 8th day & random sampling in other cases
- Monitoring of International travelers in the community.
- Contact tracing of positive individuals & follow up for 14 days
- Sending all positive samples for genome sequencing to INSACOG Labs in a prompt manner
- Continued monitoring of areas where cluster of positive cases have emerged
- Strengthen the testing infrastructure
- Ensuring early identification of cases through adequate testing across the States while maintaining optimal RT-PCR ratio.
- Ensure preparedness of health infrastructure (availability of ICU, Oxygen supported beds, ventilators, etc.)
- Upgrading health infrastructure sanctioned by Government of India under Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness (Phase II) package (ECRP-II) including in rural areas and for pediatric cases
- Commissioning all PSA plants, ensuring sufficient logistics, drugs etc.
- Ensuring creating required awareness within community on the emerging evidence on Omicron
- Ensure rapid vaccination coverage for all eligible beneficiaries
- Ensuring adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour by the community

Annexure

State/UT-wise details of number of cases of Delta and Delta plus variants (3rd December 2021)

State/UT	Delta variant	B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.3	AY1	AY2	AY3	AY.3.1	AY.4.2
Andaman Nicobar	0	1					
Andhra Pradesh	1993	475	2	1	9		
Assam	1079	19			5	1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	63	6					
Bihar	220	11					
Chandigarh	334	16	4				
Chhattisgarh	936	75					
Dadra Nagar Haveli	20	0					
Delhi	2739	347	3		1		
Goa	308	79	2		1		
Gujarat	686	202	2				10
Haryana	485	132	3				
Himachal Pradesh	1027	6	1		1		
Jammu & Kashmir	1141	17	1				
Jharkhand	353	84					
Karnataka	1955	279	2	3			
Kerala	239	3	0	0	1		
Ladakh	208	3					
Lakshadweep	68	2					
Madhya Pradesh	599	75	12				
Maharashtra	2589	2160	9	1			1
Manipur	1299	6	6		1		
Meghalaya	134	20					
Mizoram	1251	0	28				
Nagaland	191	6			1		
Odisha	1949	42	1				
Puducherry	515	110					
Punjab	1071	28	2				
Rajasthan	658	12					
Sikkim	348	6					
Tamil Nadu	1043	221	5				4
Telangana	1840	315	4		12		1

Tripura	198	15					
Uttar Pradesh	717	72	2				
Uttarakhand	669	67	4		1		
West Bengal	2918	664	1		3		
Total	31843	5576	94	5	36	1	18