

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 257

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021/ AGRAHAYANA 9, 1943 (SAKA)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO KIN OF PERSONS DIED DUE TO COVID-19

257. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:
SHRI A. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died due to COVID-19 in the country from March, 2020, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has any plans to provide financial assistance from National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to the kith and kin of the people who died due to COVID-19;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has issued guidelines for payment of compensation to the next of kin of persons who died due to COVID-19; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a): As reported by States/ UTs, on the portal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), 4,67,468 persons have died due to COVID-19 in the country, from March, 2020, upto 26.11.2021. The States/ UTs-wise details are available at their website at www.mohfw.gov.in under the heading '*COVID-19 Statewise Status*'.

(b) to (e): In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment, dated the 30th June, 2021, in the Writ Petitions (Civil) No. 554/2021 and No.539/2021, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under section 12(iii) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, had issued guidelines on the 11th September, 2021, for grant of ex-gratia assistance of **₹50,000/-** (Rupees fifty thousand only) per deceased person, including those involved in the relief operations or associated in the preparedness activities, subject to cause of death being certified as COVID-19, as per the 'Guidelines for Official Document for COVID-19 Death' jointly issued by the MoHFW and the Indian Council of Medical Research, on the 3rd September, 2021.

The Honb'le Supreme Court, *vide* its Order, dated 4th October, 2021, in Miscellaneous Application No. 1120 of 2021 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 539/2021, titled as Gaurav Kumar Bansal Vs. Union of India, *inter alia* issued detailed instructions regarding fixed timelines for issuance of ex-gratia payments, setting up of Grievance Redressal Committees, etc. In compliance with the aforesaid Order, the Ministry of Home Affairs, on the 6th October, 2021, has requested all the States/ Union Territories to take necessary action as contemplated in the said judgement and guidelines issued in this regard by the Government of India and the NDMA, immediately and within the stipulated time-lines.