

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1638
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022**

STRATEGY FOR MINIMAL HOSPITALISATION DURING OMICRON WAVE

1638. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take adequate measures to minimize hospitalization and check the proliferation of Omicron variant without disrupting the economic activity and livelihood of the people; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DR BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (b): With the reporting of Omicron Variant, a highly mutated variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus and its classification as a Variant of Concern (VoC) by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Union Ministry of Health & FW revised its 'Guidelines for international arrivals'. As per the case trajectory globally and in India, duly following risk based approach, the guidelines have been revised also.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19 including containment and surveillance, testing, clinical management protocols, post-COVID sequele, etc. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has reviewed, updated and issued 'guidelines for home isolation' applicable to COVID-19 patients who have been clinically assessed and assigned as mild /asymptomatic cases of COVID-19.

Besides regular review meetings at the level of Union Health Minister with all relevant stakeholders including subject experts, review meetings with States/UTs through video conferencing have been conducted regularly to review preparedness and response measures to address COVID-19 pandemic. States/UTs have been advised to carry out the following activities:

- Strict monitoring of International travellers in the community.
- Contact tracing of positive individuals & follow up for 14 days.
- Genome sequencing of positive samples through INSACOG Labs in a prompt manner.

- Monitoring of areas where cluster of positive cases emerge.
- Strengthening of COVID-19 testing infrastructure and ensuring early identification of cases through adequate testing across the States.
- Ensuring preparedness of health infrastructure (availability of ICU, oxygen supported beds, ventilators, etc.) and upgrading health infrastructure under ECRP-II including in rural areas and for paediatric cases.
- Commissioning all PSA plants, ensuring sufficient logistics, drugs etc.
- Ensuring COVID-19 vaccination for the eligible population including coverage among young adolescents (15-18 years) and precaution dose for health care workers, frontline workers and elderly with co-morbidities.
- Ensuring adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

Union Ministry of Health & FW provides support to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. Funding support is also provided to States/UTs through National Health Mission, State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) and Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages. Under ECRP Phase II, a package of Rs. 23,123 crore (with Rs. 15,000 Cr as Central Component) has been approved.

Omicron variant is the dominant variant in the country presently. The current surge of COVID-19 cases in the country is showing a sustained declining trend since 21st January 2022.