

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1639  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022**

**REVIVAL OF CONTROL ROOMS TO DEAL WITHOMICRON SITUATION**

**1639. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

- (a) whether the Government has issued any advisory to the States/UTs to revive control rooms at district level to deal with Omicron Situation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the States/UTs have been asked to equip control rooms with all infrastructure facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide all assistance to the States/UTs to deal with Omicron situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has reviewed, updated and issued 'guidelines for home isolation' whereby States/UTS were advised to operationalise the district and sub-district level control rooms so that people under home-isolation may contact these control rooms for clinical support and seamless transfer through ambulance from home to the dedicated hospital, if warranted. These control rooms can also make outbound calls to the patients under home isolation to monitor their status.

Government of India is supporting States in their endeavor to manage COVID-19 since the beginning of pandemic. Given the emergence of mutated variants with variable impact on transmissibility, virulence and effectiveness of vaccines, likelihood of resurgence of COVID-19 trajectory in the country is monitored by various expert committees under Indian Council of Medical Research, Directorate General of Health Services and other relevant Ministries/Departments. Union Ministry of Health & FW keeps a close watch over COVID-19 situation across the country and globally.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19. To disseminate various clinical guidelines for appropriate management of cases, a

series of webinars were held under MoHFW's Center of Excellence initiative for all State Level Centers of Excellence and district level public and private COVID health facilities in collaboration with AIIMS, Delhi and Indian Medical Association.

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 under Union Health Minister and senior officials of Health Ministry to review preparedness and response measures for COVID-19 pandemic. States/UTs have been repeatedly urged to take up the following activities:

- Strict monitoring of International travelers 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 emerges.
- Further 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 pediatric 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 comorbidities.
- 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 crores (with Rs. 15,000 Cr as Central Component) has been approved to upgrade health infrastructure including maintaining buffer stock of essential drugs. Of this, as on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, funds to the tune of Rs. 7245.95 crore have been released to States/UTs as part of Central component to strengthen health infrastructure to manage any surge in cases.