

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4923
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022**

**SHORTAGE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DURING INITIAL PHASE OF COVID-19**

**† 4923. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHARI:
SHRIMATI POONAM MANHAJAN:**

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

- a) Whether the Government faced shortage of health care professionals and infrastructure during initial phase of COVID-19 spread in India and the manner in which Government overcame this issue;
- b) Whether new posts of health care workers were created in Government sector, if so, the number of posts created in the Central Government sector;
- c) The details of assistance provided to the States/UTs where there was shortage of health care professionals and infrastructure;
- d) The actions taken by each State/UTs to address shortage of health care professionals; and
- e) The details of the States/UTs which have created new posts for it, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Government of India is supporting states in their endeavour to manage COVID-19 since the beginning of pandemic. Requisite support is provided to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has supported States to implement a three-tier arrangement of dedicated COVID-19 health facilities in the country to reduce the risk of cross infection to non-COVID patients as well as to maintain continuity of non-COVID essential health services in the country.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has supported States through National Health Mission and Emergency COVID Preparedness and Response Packages (I & II) to upgrade health infrastructure including dedicated Covid beds, based on the need at the field level.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through formal communications and during virtual interactions has advised all States/UTs to maintain adequacy of hospital bed capacities and requisite logistics keeping in mind the local trajectory of cases and deaths. Accordingly, the beds were made available for COVID-19 management as per the case trajectory while also ensuring availability of non-COVID essential health services by the States and districts.

Health is a State subject. The states were advised to fill up the existing vacancies under regular cadre and through NHM support.

The details of doctors, nurses and paramedics who have retired from Central govt services in last 5 years was compiled at central level and shared with the states. It was suggested that the states may contact them on need basis to extend their services at this time of crisis. A detailed SOP was released by Union Ministry of Health regarding deployment of residents/ PG students and nursing students as part of Hospital Management for COVID-19.

Union Ministry of Health & FW continues to provide 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 manpower, maintaining buffer stock of essential drugs, etc.
