

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 658  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**REDUCING THE RISK OF THIRD WAVE OF PANDEMIC**

**658 SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any mechanism and has conducted a study in consultation with the experts to reduce the risk of third wave of pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from States/UTs particularly Madhya Pradesh, for allocation of funds for development of medical infrastructure to tackle the third wave; and
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

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

(a) & (b) Government of India continues to keep a close watch over COVID-19 situation in the country against COVID-19 to prevent and mitigate the impact of any resurgence of COVID-19 trajectory in the country.

Government of India has also established an Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance Consortium (INSACOG) for genomic sequencing and tracking the evolution of variant strains of SARS-CoV-2.

Also, 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 & Family Welfare continues to keep a close watch over COVID-19 situation across the country and globally.

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/Union Territories (UTs) have been repeatedly urged to undertake 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.
- Continued 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 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness-Phase II' (ECRP-II) including in rural areas and for pediatric cases.
- Commissioning 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.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) vide letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 has circulated to all States/UTs guiding principles for imposition of restrictions or allowing relaxation in context of COVID-19 based on COVID-19 testing confirmation rates and hospital bed occupancy rates. This has been reiterated by Ministry of Home Affairs under Disaster Management Act, 2005 vide order dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare continues to provide 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.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 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 has been approved to upgrade health infrastructure including maintaining buffer stock of essential drugs.

(c) & (d) The proposals are received from States/UTs under 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness-Phase II' (ECRP-II) and Prime Minister- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Under PM-ABHIM is

one of the largest Pan-India scheme for public health infrastructure to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance and health research, spanning both urban and rural areas so that the communities are Atmanirbhar in managing such pandemic/health crises. The State of Madhya Pradesh has received an approval of Rs. 125.26 Crore against the proposed amount of Rs. 125.26 Crore.

ECRP-II is aimed to prevent, detect and respond to the continuing threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national health systems for preparedness in India. Support is provided to the States/UTs for provision for establishing District Paediatric Units (including Oxygen Supported beds and ICU beds) in all the Districts of the Country. Besides, support is also provided to increase the availability of ICU beds in Government health facilities and to create pre - fabricated structures for augmenting beds at Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres & Community Health Centres in rural, peri-urban and tribal areas. In addition, the support for maintaining the buffer stock for essential medicines required for effective COVID management; establishing field hospitals (100 bedded or 50 bedded units) wherever required and strengthening district level laboratories for RT-PCR testing. The states have been supported for utilization of the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Residents, Final Year MBBS, BSc and GNM Nursing students for effective COVID-19 management. The package is implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The State of Madhya Pradesh has received an approval of Rs. 1447.50 Crore against the proposed amount of Rs. 1735.27 Crore.

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