

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022**

“DATA ON DEATH DUE COVID-19”

**† 2100. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH:
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that WHO has estimated 4.7 million COVID deaths in the country which is 10 times more deaths than official figure of the Government, if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (b) the criteria adopted for estimation of deaths due to COVID in the country by WHO;
- (c) whether WHO has also released similar type of estimated data for other countries, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has put forward its case in declaring more deaths than the actual figure, if so, the response of the WHO in this regard,
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the investment in the health sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of deaths due to COVID-19 reported so far along with the details of applications received for compensation of claim for death due to COVID-19, State/UT-wise and date-wise and the status of disposal of these applications thereof?

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

(a) to (f): As on 26th July 2022, as reported by States/UTs, a total of 5,26,110 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported in the country.

World Health Organization (WHO), based on a mathematical modeling exercise has projected an estimate of about 47 lakh excess deaths in India associated directly or indirectly with COVID-19 pandemic, between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021. This is primarily an estimate of deaths due to all-causes which includes deaths due to COVID-19 also.

This mathematical modeling based approach by WHO, suffered from a number of inconsistencies and erroneous assumptions. India had highlighted against the classification of certain countries under Tier-1 while they had displayed data inconsistencies in reporting and placing India under Tier 2 while India has followed a robust system of data reporting.

India had also objected to the one size fits all approach adopted by WHO, which might be true for smaller countries but cannot be applied to a huge and diverse country like India which had varied case trajectory across multiple states and at different periods during the pandemic.

WHO was also asked to explain the unscientific approach wherein their projections were based on data from only 17 States/UTs obtained from websites/RTIs taken at varied periods of time and extrapolated to the entire country.

The study did not account for varied COVID-19 test positivity rate across States, and at different periods of time besides the implications of using different diagnostic methods (RAT/RT-PCR) in different countries.

According to WHO's own admission, their modeling exercise suffered from a number of limitations like limited representation and generalization of variable utilized to settings that may be systematically different.

Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a representative body of Health Ministers from all States/UTs of India, constituted under Article 263 of Constitution of India, has passed a unanimous resolution against the WHO's approach in this regard and authorized the Union Health Minister to convey their collective disappointment to WHO.

India had registered a strong objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this unscientific modelling approach especially when India had provided authentic data published through Civil Registration System by Registrar General of India to WHO.

To better prepare our country against public health emergencies, PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores has been taken up to strengthen infrastructure of public health labs, surveillance capacities, infectious disease block across the country besides supporting research.

As per information received from various State Governments/UT Administration, as on 27th May 2022, 7,91,353 claims have been settled/payment released as ex-gratia relief from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to next of kin of the persons who died due to COVID-19.
