

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2209
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022**

NEW VARIANT OF CORONA

† **2209. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether any new variant of Coronavirus have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the place/ areas where it has spread;
- (c) whether the new variant of corona is less dangerous for human beings, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the symptoms of this variant and the steps taken for its prevention?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), no new variant of concern of COVID-19 virus has been detected in the country since the detection of Omicron variant in first week of December 2021. However, various Omicron sub-lineages are circulating in the country. These Omicron sub-lineages are circulating across all the States. The clinical presentation remains largely the same. Omicron and its sub-lineages are found to be associated with milder disease as evident by the relatively lower rates of hospitalizations reported by States/UTs.

Given the emergence of variants of COVID-19 virus with variable transmissibility and other public health implications, Union Ministry of Health is following COVID-19 trajectory globally and in the country along with various expert committees. Union Ministry of Health & FW has requested States/UTs to focus on five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination Against COVID-19 and Adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior and has urged all States/UTs remain prepared for any surge in COVID-19 trajectory.

Union Ministry of Health provides requisite support to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19. Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to resurgence of cases in the country through National Health Mission, State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF), Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages and PM - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.