

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to remove Caesarean Section from Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY). These packages are required for meeting the need of safety and health of woman and child. The utilization of these packages is monitored both at the Central and State level.

#### **Research journals and activities in medical sciences**

1400. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to encourage research in medical sciences; and
- (b) whether the AIIMS, New Delhi publish any research journal and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Various steps have been taken by the Government to encourage research in medical sciences through intra-mural and extra-mural schemes and projects, covering areas of communicable and non-communicable diseases, reproductive health, nutrition, human resource development, infrastructure, medical devices, biomedical devices and biomaterials.

(b) Yes. The All India Institute, of Medical Sciences, New Delhi publishes 'National Medical Journal of India'. This is published six times a year.

#### **Line of treatment protocol against Coronavirus**

1401. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking fullfledged preventive measures with respect to Coronavirus outbreak;
- (b) if so, details of the preventive measures and number of people under observation for Coronavirus in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of line of treatment adopted for treating people under observation for Coronavirus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has taken note of the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and has initiated steps to monitor the situation in India, as follows:

- I. Screening of passengers has been initiated at all 21 airports. Universal screening has been made mandatory for all flights from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Instructions have been issued to park these flights at earmarked aero-bridges to facilitate screening. Screening has also been initiated at all 12 major and 65 minor sea-ports and minor-ports wherein crew and passengers from China are expected. Besides this, screening has been initiated in border crossings. Arrangement have been made for in-flight announcements in incoming flights, filling of self-declaration forms by incoming passengers. Signages have been displayed at prominent locations at ports and airports for guidance and convenience of passengers. First Travel advisory was issued on 17th January 2020 and as situation is evolving, the travel advisories are accordingly getting revised. Extant advisories provide that:
  - (i) Existing visas (including eVisa already issued) are no longer valid for any foreign national travelling from China to India.
  - (ii) People having compelling reasons to visit India may contact Indian Embassy in Beijing or Indian Consulates in Shanghai or Guangzhou to apply afresh for an Indian Visa.
  - (iii) People have already been advised to refrain from travel to China through an earlier advisory. People traveling to China henceforth will be quarantined on return.
  - (iv) Indian citizens to refrain from non-essential travel to Singapore, Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran and Italy.
  - (v) Visa on arrival from Republic of Korea and Japan has been suspended.
- II. The government has conducted training for the officers of ports, airports and border crossing points and has sensitized them on management of high risk pathogens such as Ebola and Coronavirus. They have been equipped with personal protective equipment. Thermal scanners and hand held thermal detectors have been placed at 21 airports. Additional doctors, nurses and paramedic staff have been deployed at the airports for smooth, effective and convenient screening of passengers.

- III. Guidelines on clinical management, infection prevention control, surveillance and sampling etc. have been disseminated to the States and also made available on the website of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The risk is communicated through media including social media.
- IV. Government of India has also initiated a series of action to prevent entry of the disease and to contain it. A group of ministers consisting of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Civil Aviation, Minister of State of Home Affairs, Minister of State of Health and Family welfare, Minister of State of Shipping under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister has been constituted and 3 meetings have been held on 03.02.2020, 13.02.2020 and 02.03.2020. Cabinet Secretary has taken series of meetings with all related Ministries such as Health, Defense, MEA, Civil Aviation, Home, Textiles, Pharma, Commerce and other officials including with State Chief Secretaries. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is constantly reviewing the evolving scenario. Series of Video Conferences have been held with Chief Secretaries and also with Secretaries, Health of the States / UTs.
- V. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has been geared up to track and follow up passengers coming from the affected countries particularly China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Government have made arrangements for testing of samples at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and 14 other Viral Research and Diagnostics Laboratories (VRDLs) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in different parts of the Country. Adequate laboratory reagents are available to test upto 25,000 samples. Sufficient stock of Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) is maintained. A 24x7 Control Room has been activated. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) of the States/UTs have already been trained in management of MERS-CoV outbreak and Ebola Virus Disease.
- VI. The Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) under the Chairmanship of DGHS has held series of meetings to assess the risk and review the preparedness and response mechanisms to manage any case that might get imported to India. WHO, being represented in the JMG is providing Ministry with regular updates and technical information.
- VII. Senior officers of the Ministry of Health and family Welfare have been deputed to visit States / UTs to review the management of COVID-19 in each State / UT.

VIII. Press releases are being issued on regular basis. Information about travel advisory and other pertinent issues is also being shared on social media.

2. As on 01.03.2020, three confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease have been reported from Kerala. All the three patients have recovered and discharged from the hospital. As on 01.03.2020, a Total of 5,57,257 incoming passengers of 5,601 flights have been screened. Cumulatively, a Total of 25,738 passengers were placed under community surveillance in the Country through IDPS network. So far, 104 passengers were found to be symptomatic and referred to IDSP surveillance network, and 37 passengers have been hospitalized through IDSP network.

On 1st and 2nd February, 2020, a Total of 654 passengers were brought from Wuhan, China and kept for 14 days' quarantine in Army Camp, Manesar and ITBP Camp at Chhawla (Delhi). These evacuees were tested twice, reported negative for COVID-19 and were discharged on 17th and 18th February, 2020.

On 27th February, 2020, 112 persons (76 Indians and 36 foreign nationals) have been evacuated from Wuhan, China and kept for mandatory 14 days' quarantine at Army Camp, Manesar. 124 (119 Indians and 5 foreign nationals) have been evacuated from Japan and kept for mandatory 14 days' quarantine at ITBP Camp, Chhawla (Delhi). All these 236 passengers have been tested and reported negative for COVID-19.

Government is monitoring the situation closely.

(c) There is no specific treatment or vaccine for COVID-19. Treatment is supportive. Guidelines on Clinical Management of severe respiratory illness (SARI) in suspect / confirmed COVID-19 cases, Surveillance for human infection with COVID-19, Infection Prevention and Control in healthcare facilities, etc. have been placed in public domain on the website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at weblink <https://mohfw.gov.in/node/4904>.

#### **Vacant posts of Physiotherapists at Safdarjung hospital**

1402. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many vacant posts are lying unfilled in the grade of Sr. Physiotherapist in different departments of Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi;