

Handling of COVID-19 cases in the country

357. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by Government including National Disaster Management Authority by bolstering the activities to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, especially in the worst affected States and Delhi;

(b) whether the surge in the number of cases is due to lack of planning, deficiency in surveillance, non-adoption of latest technology, inefficient monitoring and ineffective coordination among various agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the series of steps taken to minimise the growth of COVID-19 cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) and (d) Central Government has been keeping a close watch on the situation since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in China. Soon after the outbreak of novel coronavirus on 7th January, 2020, several measures like progressive tightening of international travel, issuing advisories for members of the public, setting up quarantine facilities etc. were taken by the Central Government to contain the spread of COVID-19. World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as pandemic on 11th March, 2020. Experts, keeping in view the global experiences of countries which have been successful in containing the spread of COVID-19, unlike some others where many people died, have recommended that effective measures for social distancing should be taken to contain the spread of this pandemic.

In terms of Section 6 (2) (i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act, 2005), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on being satisfied that the country is threatened by the spread of COVID - 19 pandemic, has been directing Union Home Secretary, being the Chairperson of the National Executive Committee (NEC), to take measures and to issue necessary guidelines so as to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Accordingly, NEC as per directions of NDMA has been issuing guidelines about the Lockdown and Unlock phases in the country from time to time. NDMA has

been regularly reviewing and monitoring the evolving situation, so that timely action could be taken as the situation demands. A brief note about various measures taken by the Central Government is given at Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Public Health Response to COVID-19 - Status note

Government of India has taken a series of actions to prevent, control and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. India followed a whole of Government and whole of society approach. Hon'ble Prime Minister, a High level Group of Ministers (GoM), Cabinet Secretary, Committee of Secretaries and senior officers in MoHFW continue to monitor public health response to COVID-19 in the country.

The public health actions were taken in a pre-emptive, pro-active, graded manner based on the evolving scenario. A number of travel advisories were issued restricting inflow of international travelers, till such time, commercial flights were suspended on 23rd March, 2020. Till then, a total of 14,154 flights with 15,24,266 passengers have been screened at these airports. Screening was also done at 12 major and 65 minor ports and land border crossings. In the initial part of the pandemic, India evacuated a large number of stranded passengers from then COVID affected countries (China, Italy, Iran, Japan, Malaysia) and again in the un-lockdown phase, a total of 12,43,176 passengers have been brought back (as on 9th September, 2020) and followed up.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is conducting contact tracing through community surveillance. In the earlier part of the pandemic, this was done for travel related cases and subsequently for cases being reported from community as a part of containment strategy. As on 10th September 2020, a total of about 40 lakh persons have been kept under surveillance. There are 1697 laboratories conducting COVID-19 Testing. India is testing is about 1 million samples a day. A total of 5.4 crore samples have been tested so far (as on 10th September 2020).

As on 10th September, 2020, a total of 15,290 COVID treatment facilities with 13,14,171 dedicated isolation bed without Oxygen support have been created. Also, a total of 2,31,269 oxygen supported isolation beds and 62,694 ICU beds (including 32,241

ventilator beds). Guidelines on Clinical management of COVID-19 have been issued and are being updated regularly.

States are being supported in terms of supply of logistics. So far 1.39 crore of PPE Kits, 3.42 crores N-95 masks, 10.84 crore tablets of Hydroxychloroquine and 29,779 ventilators and 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders have been supplied to States/UTs/ Central Government hospitals so far (as on 10th September, 2020).

Various cadres of personnel and volunteers across sectors and departments for COVID related works and maintenance of other essential medical services have been worked out, trained through resources made available on the website of MoHFW, iGOT online platform (<https://igot.gov.in/igot/>).

MoHFW website is being updated daily to provide general public with information on current status of COVID-19 spread in India. Communication material is also being hosted on MoHFW website and through social media. A dedicated call centre / helpline (1075) has been started to guide community at large which are being used by the citizens very effectively and on a regular basis.

More than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported which are in different stages of development, 3 candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and more than 4 are in advanced pre-clinical development stage. A National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 has been constituted on 7th August, 2020, under NITI Ayog. Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs have been undertaken to build a portfolio of therapeutic options for Covid-19 patients.

Excessive police measures to enforce lockdown

358. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any instance of excessive police measures leading to harassment/injury/death of individuals in enforcing the COVID-19 lockdown across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken against such policemen who have harassed or assaulted individuals unnecessarily in the name of lockdown;