

- (b) how many children were affected who used to frequent Anganwadis; and
- (c) what has been the role of Anganwadis in the fight against COVID?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) As per the directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, under Disaster Management Act, 2005, all the Anganwadi Centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of COVID-19. During the consultation held with States/UTs in the month of July 2020, most of the States had also expressed their inability to open Anganwadi Centres in the light of increasing incidents of COVID-19. However, to ensure continuous nutritional support to Anganwadi beneficiaries, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers have been distributing supplementary Nutrition at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries. Further, this Ministry has issued necessary directions to the States/UTs to ensure distribution of food items and nutrition support by Anganwadi workers, once in 15 days, at the doorstep of beneficiaries. In addition, Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers have been assisting the local administration in community surveillance, creating awareness or other works assigned to them from time to time.

#### **Citizens repatriated during COVID pandemic**

†564. SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of citizens brought back to India during the Corona infection till date, the details thereof along with the number of students;
- (b) the number of citizens who came to India on their own expense and the number of citizens who came on Government's expense, the details thereof along with the total amount spent; and
- (c) the number of citizens found COVID-19 positive amongst the said number of citizens after coming to India; the number of citizens who were quarantined; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) The total number of Indian citizens brought back to India during the coronavirus pandemic is 14,12,835. As per information provided

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by passengers at the time of registration, around 56,874 students have returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission. Under the Vande Bharat Mission passengers or the sponsoring companies are required to buy the ticket. Moreover, Indian Mission abroad have assisted 62,000 Indian nationals in distress from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

(c) According to information provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the total number of passengers found COVID-19 positive on arrival in India was 3248.

#### **Vande Bharat flights for Indian nationals**

565. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of authorities which are responsible to take decisions on Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) flight destinations, their numbers, criteria used to shortlist passengers, cost of the tickets;

(b) how many grievances were received from VBM passengers, the nature of common grievances; and

(c) when was the exemption from institutional quarantine for VBM passengers introduced, how many incoming VBM passengers have been exempted so far, how many of these tested Covid-19 positive later?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) The decision on the number of flights and their destinations is taken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. According to the information provided by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India determines cost of the ticket for all flights under the Vande Bharat Mission, while airlines operating chartered flights determine their respective price. In the early stages of the Vande Bharat Mission, our Missions shortlisted passengers based on the compelling grounds provided by them. A list of these reasons is given in the Statement (*See below*). Passengers can now directly book tickets with the concerned airlines under the Vande Bharat Mission.

(b) Since the implementation of the coronavirus lockdown, the Ministry of External Affairs has responded to around 31,000 emails, more than 21,000 phone calls