

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 77
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd February, 2021**

NEW COVID-19 VARIANT CASES IN THE COUNTRY

77 SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who have been tested positive for the new UK variant of COVID- 19 in the country, State/UT-wise and the treatment given to them
- (b) whether the new variant of the virus can be a super spreader with its higher transmissibility potential and, if so, the preventive steps taken by Government to stop its spread in the country and
- (c) whether Government has issued a new standard operating procedures for all international passengers who have travelled from or transited through UK to check entry of new UK variant of COVID-19 and, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Till 28th January 2021, 136 travelers and their contacts have been tested positive for UK strain in India. State-wise details are:

Andhra Pradesh	1
Delhi	27
Goa	4
Gujarat	11
Haryana	6
Karnataka	14
Kerala	10
Ladakh (UT)	1
Madhya Pradesh	2
Maharashtra	11
Odisha	3
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	9
Telangana	7
Uttar Pradesh	17
Uttarakhand	1
West Bengal	1
Case details awaited	3

The treatment protocol remains the same as for COVID-19 disease and is available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/UpdatedClinicalManagementProtocolforCOVID19dated03072020.pdf>

(b) & (c): As per the initial assessment by European Center for Disease Control, the mutant SARS-CoV-2 appears to be more transmissible and affecting younger population. However, presently there is no published evidence to suggest super-spreader event due to the new variant.

Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent its spread in the country:

- i. All flights to UK were banned till from December 23, 2020 to 7th January 2021.
- ii. Resumption of limited international flight services to/from UK has been allowed with effect from 8th January 2021 in a calibrated manner by initially allowing flight movement to/from UK to five international airports i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai only.
- iii. All the passengers arriving from U.K. should be carrying Negative RT-PCR Test Report for which test should have been conducted within 72 hours prior to undertaking the journey.
- iv. All international passengers who arrived in India from UK or transit through UK are again mandatorily tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR at the airport.
- v. All passengers and their contacts who tested positive for RT-PCR are isolated, their samples are sent for whole genome sequencing to detect UK variant.
- vi. All international passengers who test negative at Airports are quarantined for 14 days.
- vii. Detailed guidelines are available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/SOPforthenewvariantofSARSCoV2InthecontextofregulatedresumptionoflimitedflightsoriginatingfromUnitedKingdomUKtoIndiafrom8thJanuary2021.pdf>