

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2356
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2021**

MEASURES TO COMBAT SECOND SPIKE OF COVID-19

**2356 SHRI BIKASH RANJAN:
SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:
the measures that have been taken to combat the reported second spike of COVID-19 all over India?

ANSWER

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

Government of India is actively monitoring the resurgence of COVID-19 cases after sustained decline that was witnessed since mid-September 2020.

Any surge in cases reported and the need for institutionalizing necessary public health measures is taken up with the concerned States through formal communication, video conferences and deployment of Central team. States have been advised to (i) put in place stringent containment measures on a mission mode in coordination with all stakeholders, (ii) upscaling surveillance, contact tracing and testing, (iii) further intensify IEC campaign to ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behavior, (iv) ensuring adequate hospital infrastructure to manage surge in cases, (v) focus on minimizing mortality by ensuring timely referral and appropriate clinical management, and (vi) increase the pace of COVID-19 vaccination.

Recognizing that the mutant variants of SARS-CoV-2 are driving the pandemics in countries of their origin, namely United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, Government of India has revised its guidelines for international travel to minimize the risk of importation and further spread of these mutant variants in India.

A genomic consortium of 10 regional laboratories with National Center for Disease Control as the apex laboratory has been established to perform genomic sequencing of the samples from positive travelers and 5% of the positive test samples from the community.

Such international travelers who test positive are kept in special isolation ward, till such time they test negative. The contacts of such cases are also kept under institutional quarantine, till such time they test negative.