

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.913
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

UK VARIANT OF COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTRY

913 # SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether passengers coming from U.K. have been tested positive for mutant strain of corona virus;
- (b) if so, the number of persons found infected with this virus and the places where they have been quarantined;
- (c) whether there are passengers who have not been found infected with the virus and are still being quarantined;
- (d) whether Government bears the expenses of quarantined passengers; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Yes. As of now, 133 have tested positive for mutant strain of corona virus. In addition, their 31 contacts have also tested positive. Institutional isolation was done for all the mutant strain cases.
- (b): Isolation of the cases has been done at the place of entry in India (international airport) or places where they were traced back retrospectively.
- (c): Yes, as per Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's 'Standard Operating Procedure for Epidemiological Surveillance & Response for the new variant of SARS-CoV-2', contacts of confirmed cases among travelers from UK are required to undergo institutional quarantine in separate quarantine centers and would be tested as per ICMR guidelines (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19).
- (d) & (e): Quarantine of such contacts is being managed by respective State Governments where such flights from United Kingdom have been allowed. Some States are giving the provision for a public institutional quarantine, in case the person (contact of a confirmed case) is unable/doesn't want to pay for quarantine at a private facility.