

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.243
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2021**

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF OXYGEN DURING SECOND WAVE OF PANDEMIC

243 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of COVID-19 patients died on roads and hospitals due to acute shortage of oxygen in the second wave;
- (b) the total demand of oxygen by the States and total oxygen supplied, State-wise during the last three months; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken so that there will be no shortage of oxygen in the country as the experts are of the view that third wave can also come in which large number of patients will require oxygen?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a): Health is a State subject. Detailed guidelines for reporting of deaths have been issued by Union Health Ministry to all states/UTs. Accordingly, all states/UTs report cases and deaths to Union Health Ministry on a regular basis. However, no deaths due to lack of oxygen has been specifically reported by states/UTs.

However, Government of India has supported the States and undertook a series of actions including provisioning medical oxygen, and other consumables to ensure clinical care of COVID-19 patients in view of steep rise of COVID-19 trajectory in the country during April-May 2021.

(b): The supply of medical oxygen to hospitals is determined by contractual arrangements between the concerned hospital and the medical oxygen supplier.

However, due to unprecedented surge in demand of medical oxygen during the second wave – the demand in the country peaked to nearly 9000 MT as compared to 3095 MT during the first wave – the Central Government had to step in to facilitate equitable distribution to the States.

A dynamic and transparent framework for allocation of medical oxygen in consultation with States/UTs and all the stakeholders such as relevant Ministries, manufacturers/suppliers of liquid oxygen etc. was prepared.

The active case load of the State/UT was the primary determinant of oxygen allocation, other factors such as case doubling rate, available medical infrastructure, etc. were also given due consideration.

Further, the allocation was kept dynamic as per the changing pandemic load. The first allocation order was issued on 15th April 2021 and revised from time to time, based on the trends of active cases and supply position. A total allocation of 10,250 MT has been done to 26 high burden States as on 28th May 2021 as per **Annexure**.

(c): Government of India, along with the State Governments took all possible steps to tackle the unprecedented surge in oxygen demand that arose in the second wave of Covid-19. This includes:

- Enhancement of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) production from 5700 MTs in August, 2020 to 9690 MTs in May, 2021;
- Restrictions on industrial use of oxygen; and augmentation of availability of containers.
- A dynamic and transparent framework for allocation of medical oxygen in consultation with States/UTs and all the stakeholders such as relevant Ministries, manufacturers/suppliers of liquid oxygen etc. was prepared.
- Also, online digital solutions viz. Oxygen Demand Aggregation system (ODAS) and Oxygen Digital Tracking System (ODTS) have been developed to ascertain the demand for medical oxygen from all medical facilities and to track their transportation.
- Further, in order to avoid wastage of medical oxygen, guidelines on rational use of oxygen were issued on 25th September 2020. These were further revised and disseminated to States on 25th April 2021.
- Further, the States were provided with oxygen equipment such as oxygen cylinders, concentrators and Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen generation plants. A total of 4,02,517 oxygen cylinders have been procured/ are being procured and distributed to the States. Also, 1222 PSA Oxygen generation plants have been sanctioned. Out of these, as on 15th July, 2021, 237 plants have been commissioned. Apart from this, 295 PSA plants are being installed by different Ministries. States have also been asked to prepare State level oxygen generation plants.
- With a view to increase the storage capacity of Liquid Medical Oxygen in the States, under the emergency COVID Package-Part-II, 1050 Liquid Medical Oxygen Tanks along with MGPS at a cost of Rs. 80 Lakh each have been approved.

Annexure

Details of oxygen allocated to States/ UTs

S. No.	State/UT	Oxygen allocated (In Metric Ton)
1	Maharashtra	1200
2	Gujarat	800
3	Karnataka	1200
4	Madhya Pradesh	500
5	Delhi	400
6	Haryana	307
7	Uttar Pradesh	894
8	Punjab	247
9	Tamil Nadu	650
10	Kerala	500
11	Chhattisgarh	227
12	Rajasthan	505
13	Telangana	450
14	Andhra Pradesh	590
15	Assam *	160
16	Uttarakhand	200
17	Jammu & Kashmir	86
18	Goa	55
19	Chandigarh	40
20	Himachal Pradesh	40
21	Bihar	274
22	West Bengal	480
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	20
24	Jharkhand	120
25	Puducherry	50
26	Odisha	265

*Allocation proposed for Assam also includes allocations for the states of Meghalaya and Tripura.