

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED Q. No 2495  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**DEATHS OF BURIAL, CREMATORIUM AND FUNERAL SERVICE WORKERS DUE  
TO COVID-19**

**2495 SHRI ANAND SHARMA:**

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

- a) the details of the number of crematorium and funeral service workers and burial site workers who have contracted and died from COVID-19;
- b) whether Ministry plans to include burial, crematorium and funeral service workers within the ambit of frontline workers;
- c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- d) whether the Ministry has formulated or has plans to formulate financial assistance package (including protection kits, priority vaccination) for these workers;
- e) if so, the details thereof; and
- f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (f) 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.

ICMR on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 issued 'Guidance for appropriate recording of COVID-19 related deaths in India'

(Available at:

[https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/techdoc/Guidance\\_appropriate\\_recording\\_of\\_related\\_deaths\\_India.pdf](https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/techdoc/Guidance_appropriate_recording_of_related_deaths_India.pdf)). This was widely disseminated among States/UTs.

MoHFW vide letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 has conveyed to States/UTs, WHO and ICMR guidelines on correct recording of COVID-19 related deaths in accordance with globally

accepted ICD-10 classification and also urged states to undertake periodic death audits with the aim to improve quality of healthcare services by suitable corrective measures. States/UTs were also provided with a proforma for undertaking death audits in this regard.

The COVID-19 management toolkit for District Collectors shared by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 with states, also highlighted the need for deaths audits and follow up action as one of the key monitoring parameters.

168 Central teams deployed to 33 states/UTs have also reiterated need for correct recording of deaths and undertake periodic death audits.

The data of deaths are obtained from States/UTs. As on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, a total of 4,26,290 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported by States/UTs.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued COVID-19: Guidelines on Dead Body Management on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (available at: [https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/1584423700568\\_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf](https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/1584423700568_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf)), wherein crematorium/ burial ground staff have been advised the protocol to be followed while handling dead bodies so as to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection.

Cremation ground staff are included in the category of frontline workers and as a priority group for COVID-19 vaccination.

(Available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/COVID19VaccineOG111Chapter16.pdf>)