

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED Q. No 2528
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th AUGUST 2021**

SURVEY TO MONITOR ACTUAL NUMBER OF COVID-19 DEATHS

**2528 SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV**

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

- a) whether as per a recent US study conducted by a former Chief Economic Advisor of India, at least 49 lakh people have died due to COVID-19 in India since January 2020 to June 2021;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether Central and State Governments are concealing deaths to avoid compensation under Epidemic Act to the victims of COVID-19;
- d) if so, the details thereof;
- e) whether Government would initiate court monitored survey in every district to ascertain the real numbers of deaths due to COVID-19; 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)

Union Ministry of Health has followed a transparent policy of publishing COVID-19 cases and deaths since the inception of pandemic in India. Such approach is critical for understanding the trajectory of the infectious disease and taking corrective public health actions at the field level.

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 10th 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). This was widely disseminated among States/UTs.

MoHFW vide letter dated 9th 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 2nd 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.

As on 5th August 2021, a total of 4,26,290 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported by the States/UTs.