

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED Q. No. 243
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2021**

**MEASURES TAKEN TO CONTROL SPREAD OF AY. 4.2 VARIANT
STRAIN OF COVID-19**

243. SHRI K. R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that COVID-19 AY. 4.2 variant is found in Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in recent times; and
- (b) If so, the measures taken by Government to control/eradicate its further spreading in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 243 FOR 21ST DECEMBER, 2021**

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(a) and (b): As on 16th December 2021, a total of 64 COVID-19 cases with AY4.2 variant have been reported in the country. This includes 42 cases from Chhattisgarh, 11 cases from Gujarat, 4 cases from Tamil Nadu, 3 cases from Bihar, 2 cases from Assam and one case each from Maharashtra and Telangana. No COVID-19 case with AY4.2 variant has been reported from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Union Ministry of Health & FW continues to keep a close watch over COVID-19 situation across the country and globally. Given the emergence of mutated variants with variable impact on transmissibility, virulence and effectiveness of vaccines, likelihood of resurgence of COVID-19 trajectory in the country is examined by various expert committees under Indian Council of Medical Research, Directorate General of Health Services and other relevant Ministries/Departments. The public health measures to control its further spread are the same as the measures taken for various variants of SARS-CoV-2.

States/UTs have been repeatedly advised through formal communications as well as during regular video conferences to continue focus on five-fold strategy of test-track-treat-COVID appropriate behaviors and vaccination. States/UTs have also been advised to undertake genomic sequencing of positive samples through designated laboratories in the INSACOG networks of laboratories. Ministry of Health & FW has also issued detailed guidelines related with containment and clinical management for managing COVID-19.

Government of India is supporting states in their endeavor to manage COVID-19 since the beginning of pandemic. Requisite support is provided to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. Various initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to provide technical guidance and further strengthen health infrastructure, availability of essential logistics including drugs and medical oxygen supply to manage COVID-19. Union Ministry of Health & FW is in regular interaction with all States/UTs through formal communication as well as through video conferencing. States/UTs have been urged to undertake the following activities:

- Strict monitoring of International travelers in the community.
- Contact tracing of positive individuals & follow up for 14 days.
- Genome sequencing of positive samples through INSACOG Labs in a prompt manner.
- Continued monitoring of areas where cluster of positive cases emerge.
- Further strengthening of COVID-19 testing infrastructure and ensuring early identification of cases through adequate testing across the States.
- Ensure preparedness of health infrastructure (availability of ICU, Oxygen supported beds, ventilators, etc.) and upgrade health infrastructure under ECRP-II including in rural areas and for pediatric cases.
- Commissioning all PSA plants, ensuring sufficient logistics, drugs etc.
- Ensure rapid COVID-19 vaccine coverage.
- Ensuring adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour.
