

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2679  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**STUDY TO ANALYSE RELATION BETWEEN COMORBIDITIES AND COVID-19**

**2679 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:**

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

(a) whether Government has plans to study the cause-effect relationship between comorbidities and COVID-19 via a national level study to analyze the relationship between these diseases as various studies have claimed that comorbidities like diabetes, blood pressure etc contribute towards aggravating COVID-19 as well as trigger comorbidities (at least as much as 25 per cent newly reported cases of diabetes have a history of COVID-19); and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The cause-effect relationship between the presence of different comorbidities (hypertension, diabetes, asthma, etc.) and severe disease caused by COVID-19 has been already evaluated by multiple studies performed in India. It was found that the most frequent comorbidities in patients with COVID-19 were diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Patients with two or more comorbidities had 2.25 times risk of death from COVID-19.

Different studies conducted in India have demonstrated positive associations between severe disease caused by COVID-19 and the comorbidities such as :-

(i) Diabetes (ii) Hypertension (iii) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (iv) Chronic kidney disease (v) Various cancers (vi) Other cardiac diseases (apart from hypertension) (vii) Other respiratory diseases (apart from COPD) and infections.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has besides other studies also funded the following two projects to assess the association of COVID-19 with diabetes and hypertension:

- (a) Comparison of Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV2 among people with and without diabetes and/or hypertension among existing cardiovascular community cohort in National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi and
- (b) SARS- CoV-2 infection (COVID-19) related clinical outcomes among people with and without diabetes and/or hypertension in India- A hospital based observational study.

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