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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1558
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2022

"DENIAL OF RELEASE OF THE DEAD BODY BY THE HOSPITAL"

†1558. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

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

a) whether it is a fact that there are many hospitals that denied the release of the body after declaring the death by COVID-19 and it is a clearly a violation of the rights of patients;
b) if so, the details thereof;
c) whether Government has taken stock of violation of this right during the covid-19 pandemic; and
d) what mechanisms have been developed to prevent such incidents?

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

(a) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had issued Guidelines on Dead Body Management in context of COVID-19 (available at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/1584423700568_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf) as early as on 15th March 2020, wherein specific precautions to be observed while handling dead bodies in the hospitals, mortuaries, crematorium/burial grounds have been detailed.

The said guidelines also mention infection prevention and control protocols that need to be followed while allowing last rites by grieving relatives and family members.

Health is a State subject. The guidelines have been widely disseminated and States/UTs have been advised on dignified handling of dead bodies for COVID-19 cases.