

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1887
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022**

“METHODOLOGY TO CALCULATE COVID-19 DEATHS”

1887 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government denies WHO’s claims regarding the number of total infections and COVID- related deaths in 2020 in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding the differences between the methodologies used by Government and WHO for calculating the deaths;
- (d) whether Government denies the report of the NFHS 2019-21, which shows that an average of 70.80 per cent of deaths that occurred during the year 2016 to 2020 were registered, according to which, a total of 114.07 lakh people can be estimated to have died in 2020; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As on 28th July 2022, as reported by States/UTs a total of 5,26,211 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported in the country.

World Health Organization (WHO), based on a mathematical modeling exercise provided an estimate of deaths due to all-causes which occurred between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021, which includes deaths due to COVID-19 also.

According to WHO’s own admission, their modeling exercise suffered from a number of limitations like limited representation and generalization of variable utilized to settings that may be systematically different.

Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a representative body of Health Ministers from all States/UTs of India, constituted under Article 263 of Constitution of India, has passed a unanimous resolution against the WHO’s approach in this regard and authorized the Union Health Minister to convey their collective disappointment to WHO.

India had registered a strong objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this unscientific modelling approach especially when India had provided authentic data published through Civil Registration System by Registrar General of India to WHO.

Detailed guidelines for reporting of COVID-19 deaths have been issued by Union Health Ministry to all States/UTs. ICMR, in accordance with globally accepted International Classification of Diseases -10 (ICD-10) classification 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)

Government of India maintains data of total cases and deaths due to COVID-19 reported and updated by States/UTs on a regular basis.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is conducted in a 'representative' sample of households in the country to mainly get estimates related to issues pertaining to reproductive health, nutrition, non-communicable diseases.

Registration of births and deaths in India is governed by a statutory legal framework and is done under 'The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969'. Under the Act, the entire framework functions under the administrative control and oversight of Registrar General of India (RGI), a Statutory Organization, supported by Chief Registrar of States/UTs, District Registrars and about 3 lakh Registrar/Sub-Registrar across the country. This mechanism provides a universal, continuous, compulsory, permanent and thus a reliable recording of birth, death & still-births in India.
