

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2023**

HEALTH POLICY

605. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

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

- (a) the changes being made in Health Policies after COVID-19;
- (b) whether Government is planning any permanent Policy to avoid pandemic related deaths in future; and
- (c) whether Government allocated any fund for the research and development of pandemic related issues, if so, the details of the fund?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Union Ministry of Health provides requisite support to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities. Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to resurgence of cases in the country through National Health Mission, Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages.

During 2019-20, Rs. 1113.21 Crore were provided as an additional support to States/UTs under National Health Mission for management of COVID-19. During the FY 2020-21, funds to the tune of Rs. 8473.73 crore has been released to the States/UTs towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package (ECRP-I). This provided support to States for health infrastructure strengthening, expansion of laboratory network, surveillance and contact tracing, procurement of PPEs, N-95 masks, ventilators etc.

Under ECRP-Phase II, a sum of Rs. 12,740.22 crore support was provided to States/UTs for ramping up health infrastructure including those in rural, tribal and peri-urban areas closer to the community; providing support for procurement of drugs and diagnostics at district and sub district levels for management of COVID-19 cases (including pediatric care) and for maintaining a buffer of drugs; support for IT Interventions such as implementation of Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) and expanding access to tele-consultations in all districts; and support for capacity building and training for all aspects of management of COVID-19. Besides this, States have also been supported in terms of installation of oxygen concentrator plants/ PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption plants) plants.

The National Health Policy, 2017 calls for a dispersed and effective capacity for emergency management and recommends that the public healthcare system maintains surge capacities in terms of health infrastructure, human resources, and technology which can be mobilized in times of crisis.

In line with the same, with the long-term goal to better prepare our country against public health emergencies, PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores (for the period 2021-26) have been launched with the intent to enhance the capacity of primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities/systems and institutes for identifying and managing any new and emerging diseases. These includes support for strengthening of rural and urban Health and Wellness Centers for provisioning of essential health services, setting up of Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus States, operationalization of new Regional National Centers for Disease Control (NCDC) to provide support for disease outbreak and public health surveillance, establishment of metropolitan health surveillance units in urban areas and BSL-III labs across the country to strengthen the laboratory network and setting up of Health Emergency Operation Centres & container based mobile hospitals.

Under PM-ABHIM, an outlay of Rs. 1347.00 crore has been approved for Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) towards Bio-security preparedness and Strengthening Pandemic Research and Multi - Sector National Institutions and Platform for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Besides the above, Department of Science and Technology has taken several steps to strengthen research on pandemic. This includes support for research projects on pandemic research under Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) as well as Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
