

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1690
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2024**

FINAL TALLY OF COVID DEATHS IN THE COUNTRY

1690. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether there exists a final count of the total mortality figures in the country, due to Covid-19 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the manner in which these numbers correlate with estimates provided by the WHO and international medical journals such as Lancet; and
- (c) whether a State-wise breakdown of Covid mortality numbers exists and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) Since, the Covid-19 virus is still circulating, the deaths due to Covid-19 are continued to be reported in the country.

(b) The estimate of mortality figures as reported by the States/UTs are not correlated with the estimates provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) or in the international medical journals and the reasons for the same are at **Annexure**.

(c) 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://ncdirindia.org/Downloads/CoD_COVID-19_Guidance.pdf). As reported by States/UTs, the total mortality figures in the country, due to Covid-19 is available State/UT wise, on the web portal of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare - <https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/#>.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1690 FOR 06.08.2024 REGARDING FINAL TALLY OF
COVID DEATHS IN THE COUNTRY**

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) based on a mathematical modeling exercise provided an estimate of death due to all causes which occurred between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021, which includes deaths due to COVID-19 disease also. This mathematical modeling based approach by WHO suffered from a number of inconsistencies and erroneous assumptions. Similar mathematical modelling based projections on excess mortality estimates have been occasionally published in some international medical journals.
2. According to WHO's own admission and indicated in the international medical journals, their modeling exercise suffers from a number of limitations like limited representation and generalization of variable utilized to settings that may be systematically different.
3. The 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.
4. Accordingly, India had registered a strong objection to the process, methodology and outcome of World Health Organization's approach used for estimation of excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The various studies fails to acknowledge India's robust Civil Registration System (CRS) which recorded a substantial increase in death registrations (over 99%) in 2020, not solely attributable to the Pandemic.
