

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2082
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2020**

CORONAVIRUS CASES

**2082. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether Corona has created an atmosphere of fear among the citizens of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the campaigns proposed to be launched by the Government to remove the fear of Corona from the minds of common citizens;
- (c) whether there has been a decline in cases of Corona infection in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): The psycho-social impact assessment being conducted periodically on the National Help-line service seekers since March 2020 has revealed patterns of panic, anxiety reactions, depressive thoughts and stigma associated being COVID positive etc.
- (b): Realizing the impact that COVID-19 may have on the mental health of the people, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide psychosocial support during COVID-19. These initiatives include:
 - (i) Setting up of a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support, by mental health professionals, to the entire affected population, divided into different target groups viz children, adult, elderly, women and healthcare workers.
 - (ii) Issuance of guidelines/ advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of the society.
 - (iii) Advocacy through various media platforms in the form of creative and audio-visual materials on managing stress and anxiety, and promoting an environment of support and care for all.

- (iv) Issuance of detailed guidelines by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru- "Mental Health in the times of COVID-19 Pandemic - Guidance for General Medical and Specialized Mental Health Care Settings".
- (v) All the guidelines, advisories and advocacy material can be accessed on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website under "Behavioural Health – Psychosocial helpline" (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>).
- (vi) Online capacity building of health workers by NIMHANS in providing psychosocial support and training through (iGOT)-Diksha platform.

(c) to (e): The epidemic curve of any pandemic goes through an ascending, peaking and descending phase. The current phase of pandemic in India is on multiple trajectories across the urban and semi urban areas of the country. Since the country has a huge population, it is expected that there would be a large number of cases every day. However, the cases and deaths per million population in India is among the lowest if one were to compare between similarly affected countries.