



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Update on Ventilators Supplied under PM CARES

“Made in India” Ventilators have strengthened Infrastructure of Hospitals for Effective COVID management

All Technical Assistance being provided by Manufacturers for their Glitch-free Operation

Posted On: 13 MAY 2021 10:00AM by PIB Delhi

Government of India has been supporting the efforts of States and UTs for effective management of COVID patients in hospital care, under the ‘Whole of Government’ approach since last year. In order to augment the existing hospital infrastructure, the Union Government has been centrally procuring and providing States/UTs/Central Hospitals/ Institutes with essential medical devices including ventilators since April 2020.

There have been some media reports suggesting that Government of India supplied ventilators (supported by PM CARES) to GGS Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot, Punjab are lying unused as a result of technical glitches which have not been resolved due to poor after-sales support by the manufacturers. These reports seem to be unfounded, not having the full information on the matter.

Ventilators were available in very limited numbers in Government Hospitals across the country at the beginning of the pandemic last year. Moreover, very limited manufacturing of ventilators was taking place in the country and most of the suppliers abroad were not in a position to make supplies of ventilators in large quantities to India. That is when the local manufacturers were encouraged to produce “Make in India” Ventilators to address the huge projected demand of the country and orders placed on them. Many of them were first time manufacturers of the ventilators. The ventilator models went through rigorous screening, technical demonstration and clinical validation process in the very limited time available for the same, through domain knowledge experts, and after their approval, these were put into supplies.

There are a few States which have received the ventilators but are yet to get these installed in their hospitals. Union Health Secretary has written to seven such States on 11th April 2021 which still have more than 50 ventilators lying uninstalled with them for the last 4-5 months. They have been requested to get the installation expedited so that the ventilators can be put to optimal use.

With reference to the recent media report regarding 71 of 80 AGVA make Ventilators being non-functional or faulty at the GGS Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot, Punjab it is clarified that 88 Ventilators have been supplied by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and five by AGVA. After



successful installation and commissioning, these Ventilators were provided with Final Acceptance Certificate by the hospital authorities.

BEL has informed that bulk of the ventilators at GGS Medical College Hospital (GGSMCH), Faridkot are not faulty, as are being reported in a section of the media. Their engineers have visited the said Medical College on different occasions in the past to address the complaints received and carried out minor repairs required promptly. They have even conducted repeated demonstrations of the functioning of the ventilators to the staff over there.

It was observed that there are issues / problems with the infrastructure in GGSMCH including non availability of required pressure in the central oxygen gas pipelines. Further, the consumables like flow sensors, bacteria filters and HME filters are not being changed by the hospital authorities as per the prescribed norms, or the ventilators are being used without these important consumable items. Maintenance of correct gas pressures (difference between air pressure and oxygen pressure cannot be more than 10 PSI) and use of proper consumables are essential requirements, without which performance of CV200 ventilators is not guaranteed.

Furthermore, BEL engineers visited GGSMCH again today (12th May, 2021) and made five ventilators functional only by replacing a few consumables and demonstrated their optimum performance to the GGSMCH authorities, thereby, further making it evident that when operated properly, the ventilators will provide reliable performance.

In addition to the instructions given in the user manual, detailed instructions and guidelines have also been issued to all the ventilator users regarding infrastructure requirements, proper usage and maintenance of the CV200 ventilators. However, these are not being followed by many hospitals / medical colleges in Punjab. They have been, instead, raising the issue of ventilators being non functional without any basis.

It is clarified that BEL will continue to provide all the technical support required by the State in meeting the ventilator requirement during this pandemic situation.

In addition, the Union Health Ministry has written to the States and UTs on 9th May 2021 informing them once again of the Helpline numbers of the Ventilator manufactures, which are also available on the ventilators in the form of stickers. In addition, information has again been provided of state wise Whatsapp groups created with the concerned nodal officers of the States/UTs, representatives of the User Hospitals and technical teams of the manufacturers in order to address any technical issues in real time. Dedicated email IDs of these manufacturers have also been shared with the States/UTs.



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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family
Welfare

May 9, 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

It may be recalled that Government of India has been centrally procuring and providing States/UTs/Central Hospitals/ Institutes with essential medical devices including ventilators for the management of COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020. Ventilators were available in very limited numbers in Government Hospitals across the country at the beginning of the pandemic last year. Moreover, very limited manufacturing of ventilators was taking place in the country and most of the suppliers abroad were not in a position to make supplies of ventilators in large quantities to India. That is when the local manufacturers were encouraged to produce "Make in India" Ventilators to address the huge projected demand of the country and orders placed on them. Many of them were first time manufacturers of the ventilators. The ventilator models went through rigorous screening, technical demonstration and clinical validation process in the very limited time available for the same, through domain knowledge experts, and after their approval, these were put into supplies.

2. Though large orders had been placed upon the manufacturers, actual supplies to the States/UTs could be made depending upon the demand raised by them from time-to-time. Almost 100% of the demand from the States was allocated and delivered.

3. While most of the States have utilized the ventilators by getting them installed in their hospitals, there are still a number of States which have received the ventilators but are yet to get all of these installed in their hospitals. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) addressed DO letters on 11.04.2021 to eight such States which still had more than 50 ventilators lying uninstalled with them for the last 4-5 months and requested them to get the installation expedited so that the ventilators can be put to their optimal use.

4. In addition, are States where despite the ventilators being installed and commissioned, they have not been put to any effective use. This might be on account of various reasons, including lack of trained and skilled manpower for using them, improper handling of the devices, lack of proper connection with the oxygen pipeline, lack of optimum oxygen pressure, non-allocation to hospitals and keeping as spare stock in ware house, lack of arrangement for procuring consumables, etc.

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It has also been given to understand that a number of hospitals/ facilities where the ventilators were requested be installed, were actually not ready in terms of infrastructure, e.g. non-installation of oxygen pipeline etc. There are a number of reports being received that the ventilators are not being put to their optimum use.

5. Therefore, the States/UTs are requested to undertake quick verification of the ventilators provided to them and to ensure that they are put to optimal use. The bottlenecks in their installation and optimum performance may also be got verified and addressed. In this regard the manufacturers of these ventilators who have installed them in the respective facilities of States/UTs have already provided their respective helpline numbers which are reproduced as below:

S.No.	Manufacturer	Helpline number
1.	Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	18004250570 7338125222
2.	AgVa	7330405060
3.	Jyoti CNC	7897571116
4.	AMTZ	18002098870

These helpline numbers have been put on ventilators in the form of stickers.

6. In addition statewise Whatsapp groups were created with the concerned nodal officers of the States/UTs, representatives of the User Hospitals and technical teams of the manufacturers in order to address any related issues in real time. Dedicated email IDs of these manufacturers were also shared with the States/UTs. These are being provided again as below:

S.No.	Manufacturer	Email IDs
1.	Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	cv200support@bel.co.in
2.	AgVa	support@agvahealthcare.com
3.	Jyoti CNC	info@jyotihealthcare.com
4.	AMTZ	customercare@kiranindia.com

7. The concerned ventilator manufacturers have designated agencies earmarked/ deployed in the States for extending their technical services to any issue concerning functioning of ventilators. The manufacturers are also ensuring sufficient availability of spares for procurement by the States/UTs as per their requirements. All the ventilator manufacturers have provided user manuals, as well as one or other form of audio visual training module, apart from providing detailed demonstration of the product to the user hospitals at the time of installation, and even thereafter.

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8. You may appreciate that ventilators which were in such a short supply before the onset of Covid-19 pandemic and which have during the last one year been provided in substantial numbers to all the States/UTs, are precious national assets, and that it is important that their optimal usage is ensured for treatment of COVID-19 patients.

9. In view of the recent surge in the Covid-19 cases the country is receiving aid from different countries/international organizations in the form of grants. These grants are being sent to the States/UTs and Central institutions for helping them in their fight against Covid-19.



their right against Covid. Ventilators are also being received and provided as part of this assistance. Since the equipment is coming as grant without installation related support, it is requested that in the interest of patient care, the States/ UTs should take initiative at their end to get these installed and put them to effective use.

10 Secretary, MoHFW had requested all the States/UTs to indicate their requirement of ventilators in case they so require in view of the recent surge in cases. In case there is any additional demand for ventilators, the same may kindly provided within next one week. MoHFW will consider making supplies, subject to availability, at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. Bhandari
9/5/21
(Mandeep K. Bhandari)

To

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Health & Family Welfare
of all the States/UTs

Copy to:
Directors all AIIMS/ INIs/ Central Hospitals/ Institutions
PPS to Secretary (HFW)/ Additional Secretary (VS)/ Director (HPE)

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HFW/Faridkot Ventilator PMCARES/13thMay2021/1

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