



Supriya Sharma  
@sharmasupriya

22-03-2020

05:53

---

Every time I – and other journalists – post questions to the government about India's preparations to fight #COVID19, both trolls and well-meaning folk pipe up to say 'don't spread panic'.

I'd say let's panic more – and ask more questions.

Let me explain. #Thread

Last week we heard of shortages in the supply of safety gear for health workers in India.

Yes, these scary-looking hazmat suits that medical workers need to save lives – of others and their own.

My colleague @Aarefa Johari began to investigate this.

(Picture credit: Reuters)



We stumbled on the reasons for it.

So did TOI's excellent @RemaNagarajan

Rema broke the story in TOI yesterday morning. Read the story [here](#).



Healthcare workers face crisis of protective gears | India News - Times of India

India News: NEW DELHI: Health care personnel in India face a dire situation in dealing with the C...

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Healthcare-workers-face-crisis-of-protective-gears/articleshow/74740534.cms>

Rema reported how firms that make safety gear were repeatedly asking – begging – the government to set standards so that they could begin production of Covid-19 protection suits.

See her Twitter thread here.

Another mail from Protective Wear Manufacturers Association of India to health ministry.  
 They wrote several mails, tried to convince several bureaucrats of the urgency  
 Warned that world was shutting exports of protective gear and so we needed to step up  
 And yet apathy by ministry [pic.twitter.com/44BNbqp4xY](https://pic.twitter.com/44BNbqp4xY)

— Rema Nagarajan (@RemaNagarajan) March 21, 2020

What happened after Rema's story came out is stunning.

As @Aarefajohari meticulously reports, some firms got orders on emails, a mysterious tender document surfaced.

Someone in the government panicked. Finally.



Investigation: Crucial coronavirus gear supply clouded by allegations of government 'malintention'

Health workers urgently need this personal protection equipment to

fight the pandemic.

<https://scroll.in/article/956866/investigation-crucial-coronavirus-gear-supply-clouded-by-allegations-of-government-malintention>

"It is clear now what their malintentions were – they only wanted the tender to be circulated among a few manufacturers," the owner of one firm alleged.

Pause and let that sink in.

Now 14 firms have orders to deliver safety gear.

But they're confused: should they respond to the mails or submit bids for the tender?

"If HLL has already placed orders, then why is there a tender? And if there has been a tender all this while, why have orders been placed?"

Great that the government responded to media whistle-blowing.

But do you know how much time it would take for each of these firms to deliver?

Read the story to find out.



Investigation: Crucial coronavirus gear supply clouded by allegations of government 'malintention'

Health workers urgently need this personal protection equipment to fight the pandemic.

<https://scroll.in/article/956866/investigation-crucial-coronavirus-gear-supply-clouded-by-allegations-of-government-malintention>

Panic more. Ask more questions.

END

Tivitiko - The most beautiful shape of tweets!

Continue to read: <https://tivitiko.herokuapp.com/thread/6V5O8u.html>