

# Covid cases dip, Uttar Pradesh government diverts oxygen to industry

TNN | May 26, 2021, 04:53 AM IST



LUCKNOW: The state government on Tuesday, decided to divert a portion of oxygen for industrial use, days after at least two industry bodies, IIA and CII, appealed to the government to split available oxygen between hospitals and industry with Covid on wane.

In April, when the second wave struck and oxygen demand shot up, the government ordered industries using oxygen to divert it for medical purpose.

From over 1,000 tons of oxygen supplied by the government till last week, the demand has now dipped to around 700 tons per day.

As cases continue to plunge, officials say demand for the lifesaver will go down further. In the first pandemic wave, the state had managed with 300 tons of oxygen per day, but in the current wave, demand rose three-fold, forcing the government to divert industrial oxygen for medical use.

“It has been decided that some of the oxygen can be diverted back to industries,” additional chief secretary (information)

Last week, Indian Industries Association appealed to the government to distribute oxygen proportionately between hospitals and industries. Another appeal was made by CII, with UP chairperson CP Gupta saying they are receiving calls from industries, particularly stainless steel manufacturers and exporters, who need oxygen to purify liquid stainless steel. “They had to cease operations for a month after giving up their oxygen. Their electricity connection is between 8-12 MW, so they are forced to bear heavy fixed charges. These manufacturers employ thousands of people and are currently suffering heavy losses and are on verge of closure,” he said.