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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

RESEARCH ON DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINE FOR CORONAVIRUS

282 **SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:**

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

(a) whether India's average overall global health security score continues to be very low compared to several developing countries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India, and other countries are conducting research for developing medicine or vaccine for Coronavirus, if so, the status of outcome and details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has signed or proposes to sign bilateral or multilateral agreement with other countries to find vaccine/drugs to prevent COVID-19, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The globally accepted score to gauge country's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies is mandated by International Health Regulations (IHR) and the scores reported by the World Health Orgainzation through the State party annual reporting tool, wherein India's all capacities average score is more than 78% (global average 64%). A copy of the IHR core capacity score is placed at **Annexure**.

Government of India has not provided any data to GHR project for them to score Indian position in their overall global health security agenda.

(b) Yes, India is in the forefront of research for therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines. Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) through academia, R&D labs, industry, startups and NGOs are researching on diagnostic kits, vaccines and therapeutics.

A number of indigenous diagnostics kits – RTPCR, Antibody and ELISA have been developed and today we have an indigenous production capacity of more than 10 Lakh kits/day. A manufacturing zone was setup at AMTZ Vishakhapatnam to facilitate this process. New inexpensive, rapid and point of care diagnostic methods such as paper based strips and RT-LAMP have been also developed.

A major focus has been on facilitating the development of COVID19 vaccine. More than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported which are in different stages of development,

3 candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and more than 4 are in advanced pre-clinical development stage.

Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs and harnessing of traditional knowledge using the modern medicine approach are building a portfolio of therapeutic options for Covid-19 patients. Phase 2 clinical trial of immunomodulator Sepsivac with Cadila on critically ill Covid19 patients has been completed successfully and the Phase III trial will be initiated after regulatory approval. Phase 2 clinical trial of the first-ever phytopharmaceutical ACQH is with Sun Pharma is underway. One prophylactic trial of Aswagandha and three trials of Guduchi + Pippali; Yashtimadhu; and polyherbal AYUSH drug (AYUSH-64) are planned on moderately ill Covid19 patients. 5 COVID19 Biorepositories have been setup, which have collected more than 40,000 samples which have been made available to researchers and industry for developing diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

(c) Special international consultations and project calls with USA, Australia, Czech Republic and BRICS have been initiated by DBT and DST.

India partnering with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), along with Norway. For vaccine research Indian entities are collaborating with Oxford University, UK; Medical labs in USA and Europe and Thomas Jefferson University, USA with respect to several vaccines in Indian laboratories (private or public) and hospitals.

Annexure

India-IHR scores based on State party annual reporting tool 2019(self assessment) as reported by WHO



Figure 1 India IHR core capacities scores

