

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

RESEARCH WING FOR HANDLING STUDY ON COVID-19

265: DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

(a) whether Government has formulated an efficient Research wing for handling the study on COVID-19; and

(b) if so, the progress made by them in the study of possible mutated variants of COVID-19 that can occur in the near future?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): The Government of India has formulated the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance Consortium (INSACOG) which is a partnership of scientific institutions of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The consortium is jointly monitoring the evolution of variant strains of SARS-CoV-2 by genomic sequencing of the positive clinical samples. Sequencing data is being uploaded on the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) portal of MoH&FW and is also being displayed on the INSACOG dashboard at: <https://clingen.igib.res.in/covid19genomes/>. As of now, Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to be the main variant of concern and other variants of interest or concern are now negligible in sequencing data from India.
