

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022**

“VARIANTS OF COVID-19 VIRUS ACTIVE IN THE COUNTRY”

1883# SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) the variants of COVID-19 virus which are currently active in the country;
- (b) the steps taken or being taken by Government to put a check on the spread of the COVID-19 virus variants currently active in the country; and
- (c) the present status and the details of the research work being accomplished by Government in the direction of formulating a vaccine for the new variants of COVID-19 virus?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), no new variant of concern of COVID-19 virus has been detected in the country since the detection of Omicron variant in first week of December 2021. However, various Omicron sub-lineages are circulating in the country.

Given the emergence of variants of COVID-19 virus with variable transmissibility and other public health implications, Union Ministry of Health is following COVID-19 trajectory globally and in the country along with various expert committees. Union Ministry of Health & FW has continued to urge all States/UTs to focus on five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination Against COVID-19 and Adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior and has urged all States/UTs remain prepared for any surge in COVID-19 trajectory.

Union Ministry of Health provides requisite support to States/UTs to enhance preparedness and response capacities against COVID-19. Funding support has been provided to States/UTs for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to resurgence of cases in the country through National Health Mission, State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF), Emergency COVID-19 Response and Preparedness packages I & II and PM - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
