

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RDFEBRUARY, 2023**

EFFICACY OF MOLECULAR IODINE ON CORONAVIRUS

428. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any information about the use of Molecular Iodine in the prevention of diseases in General and the Coronavirus in particular;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop its production and use in the prevention of diseases, especially Corona infections;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Povidone Iodine (PVP-I) has been a gold standard antiseptic for decades having microbicidal properties with proven efficacy against the previously identified beta corona-viruses; it was one of the first candidates for the emergency trials attempting to establish an additional layer of protection for frontline healthcare workers against COVID-19.

As per the review of scientific literature, few studies indicate the benefits of using povidone-iodine based mouth rinses and nasal sprays in SARS-CoV-2 management. However, these studies also show inadequate randomization methods and smaller samples.

Other uses of Iodine include protection of thyroid gland from the effect of radiation from radioactive form of Iodine, preoperative skin antisepsis as Povidone-Iodine, broad spectrum of antimicrobial action against bacteria, fungi, protozoa and several viruses, and use in disinfecting drinking water, swimming pool water and waste water.
