

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2020**

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT

1038. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether Block chain Technology which has begun to be used in different parts of the world namely countries like Estonia, can be used in public health system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the areas in which it is currently being used in the country and the resultant impact thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a comprehensive assessment of the areas in which blockchain technology can be used in public health management in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the plans being prepared for exploring and expanding the usage of block chain technology in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Blockchain has the potential to form the underlying technology for information management systems in a number of sectors.

The likely accrued economic and social benefits from blockchain technology needs to be assessed viz-a-viz large cost associated with development and operation of blockchain systems

(c) & (d): NITI Aayog has recently released a discussion paper (Blockchain: The India Strategy) to facilitate the guidance in the assessment of processes for suitability towards blockchain application.

The document has proposed following potential areas for blockchain implementation:

- a. Pharmaceutical drugs supply chain
- b. Immunization Supply Chain
 - Cold Chain Management
 - Ensuring timely vaccination
 - Alerting patients
 - Incentivising patients and health officials

The appropriate decision whether to utilize the blockchain technology or not, will be taken after assessment of cost benefit analysis of the technology.