

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2691
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020**

Genome India Initiative

2691. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of genomes sequenced till date in the country under Genome India Initiative, State/UT wise;
- (b) the proposed use of the same and the proposed target fixed and achieved in this regard;
- (c) the agencies being provided or proposed to be provided access to the above-mentioned data; and
- (d) the measures being taken for the protection of this critical data?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EARTH SCIENCE AND HEALTH
AND FAMILY WELFARE**

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) 'GenomeIndia: Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians' project has been sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on 16.01.2020 for a period of 3 years to 20 institutions from varied disciplines across the country. The whole genome sequencing under GenomeIndia has just started.
- (b) The proposed target of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) is to do it for total 10000 individuals representing the country's diverse population in 3 years. The information generated from whole genome sequencing can facilitate future human genetics research in the country with greater precision, and to design a genome wide association array for the Indian population to develop precision healthcare and diagnostics for major diseases at affordable costs.

(c) & (d) The data security and sharing measures for this project will be governed by the rules and regulations formulated by Government of India. The personal information of all individuals consenting to participate in the study is stripped off from any further records in this project. This process of de-identification ensures that the personal information of the participants is not compromised. Additionally, ethical measures are strictly adhered to in order to maintain data security and protection.
