

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

TEST FOR COVID-19

1114. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) the number of COVID -19 tests that have been performed in India between the 23rd March 2020 and 1st September 2020 as percentage of the total population of the country;
- (b) the comparative data on above line pertaining to India with per capita testing as a percentage of the population vis-a-vis United States, Russia, France, Germany, Brazil and in South Asia of Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan respectively for the same period as above;
- (c) the accuracy of the Reverse Transcription Polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) COVID-19 testing kits in detecting the SARS-COV-2 viral infection and the number of false positives to a hundred tests being yielded by this method of testing;
- (d) the accuracy of the other forms of COVID-19 testing like the rapid antigen detection test like POC, Quantitative IGG Antibodies Serum CLIA etc.; and
- (e) the time by which an effective COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be commercially launched?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Total tests conducted between 23rd March 2020 and 1st September, 2020 is 4,43,40,875. On a total projected population of 1,37,23,60,351, the number of tests done during this period is approximately 3.23% of projected population of India.
- (b) The testing data per capita testing as a percentage of the population is not reported by WHO (World Health Organization)
- (c) The RT PCR kits for COVID-19 testing as per ICMR acceptance criteria, has a specificity of 99% or more. This means out of 100 tests conducted on negative samples, only one will yield a false positive.
- (d) For POC antigen test a specificity of 99% or more is desired. For quantitative IgG antibodies and CLIA, a specificity of 95% is desired.
- (e) If the advanced clinical trials of Covid vaccine succeed, then an effective Covid vaccine is likely to be available by the end of first quarter of 2021