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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2095
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2020

SERO SURVEY DATA

2095. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

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

(a) the details of the data of Sero Survey done so far;

(b) whether there is a difference between the actual cases of COVID-19 reported and the infections found in the population at large;

(c) if so, whether the Testing strategy followed by the Government was flawed resulting in non-reporting of many such infectious cases;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allow on demand testing for the public; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

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

(a):   A total of 24000 samples from 71 districts were collected and tested for IgG antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in May 2020. The nationwide sero-prevalence was found to be less than 1%. Smaller serosurveys have been conducted in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Indore, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune, where a seroprevalence has been found to be 7-28%. A second National sero-surveillance has commenced.

(b):   Infection is the entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent (SARS-CoV-2 virus) in humans. Infection is not synonymous with infectious disease (COVID-19). The result of infection may be inapparent or manifest. Hence there will be difference between infections among the populations and the actual cases reported.

(c):   Government of India followed a graded scientific approach to formulate a testing strategy. Government followed the World Health Organization benchmark of testing 140 samples / million population/ day. India is testing 875 samples/ million population/day which is more than 6 times the WHO recommendation.

(d) & (e):   Indian Council of Medical Research in its latest strategy (issued on 4th September 2020) has allowed for 'on-demand' testing.