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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 991
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING KIT

991. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to identify the infected patient at an early stage of detection of the Corona virus by using faster testing kits like Rapid Antigen Testing kit and Rapid Antibody Testing Kit;

(b) whether the Government has made a survey of usage of the more effective & faster result-oriented testing kits worldwide alongwith the cost, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the certification/approval of the testing kits have been obtained from the renowned and standardised testing laboratories globally; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organisation of the Department of Health Research has informed that the testing strategy includes Rapid Antigen Test for fast detection of COVID-19 infected patients. Rapid antibody tests can be used for detecting the presence of antibodies in recovered individuals. These are not used for patient diagnosis.

(b) to (d) ICMR has informed that it has been interacting with National and International manufacturers who have expressed their interest in supplying diagnostics to India. The kit manufacturers are required to submit their product for validation at the designated centres of ICMR. Only the approved kits are provided marketing permission by Drugs Controller General of India. However, US-FDA approved kits are exempted from validation. Price of procurement is based on a competitive tendering process. ICMR's validation process is based on standardized protocols developed under consultation of experts and are in line with global standards.