

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1950
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021)**

HUBS FOR COVID-19 TESTING

1950. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start “HUBS” capable of whole genome next generation sequencing tests for COVID-19 in the country soon; and**
- (b) if so, the details of initiatives of CSIR in developing “MEGA LABS” and the time by which it will start activity at random therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes Sir. Sequencing hubs are being created under the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) Program being coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Under this program, it is proposed to have regional hubs where sequencing is performed for states assigned to the hub. Two constituent laboratories of CSIR, namely CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad and CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi have been identified as such hubs, among others.**
- (b) Mega Lab concept proposed by CSIR is being deployed at the aforesaid CSIR hubs. The initial proof of concept runs have been performed and published.**
