

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1915
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY 2021**

“Opening of R&D Labs for COVID-19”

1915. SADHVI PRAGYA SINGH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open Research and Development labs across the country in view of the increasing impact of COVID-19 pandemic and other viruses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): The existing infrastructure comprising of 124 Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) and 27 institutes under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) spread across the country have capacity to work on COVID-19 and other viruses. Besides this there are research institutes under other departments of Government of India which are actively engaged in similar research. Strengthening of such infrastructure is a continuous process.