

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 368
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July, 2021

Oral Antiviral Drug

368. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is developing any oral antiviral drug to treat COVID;
- (b) if so, the details including the status of trial runs and its results so far;
- (c) the details of the firms involved in the manufacture and trial run and the time schedule for licensing and production in this regard; and
- (d) the details about the expected relief/outcome from oral antiviral against vaccination?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (c): Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has informed that they have developed 2DG (2-Deoxy-D-glucose). DRDO along with Dr. Reddy's laboratory conducted Phase-II and Phase-III trials from Mar 2020 to April 2021. Based on highly significant results of Phase-II and interim analysis of Phase-III, DCGI has granted permission on 1st May 2021 for emergency use of 2DG as adjunct therapy in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients. Complete clinical study report of Phase-III trials in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients is expected to be available by the end of August 2021. Currently, DRDO partnered with Dr. Reddy's lab for manufacturing and conducting the clinical trials on 2DG in India. However, DRDO has transferred the technology to produce 2DG to 4 more pharma companies.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has informed that CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed an oral drug Umifenovir. Its clinical trials have just been completed by CSIR-CDRI. Further, another CSIR constituent laboratory, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) has developed a new process for Molnupiravir, an oral antiviral drug.

(d): As per DRDO, 2DG is effective in COVID patients. This Drug is therapeutic and will be given to infected COVID patients. It is not a vaccine

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