

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th AUGUST, 2022**

CORBEVAX VACCINE AS A BOOSTER DOSE

3370: SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Drug Controller General of India has approved Biological E. Limited (BE)'s COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax as a COVID-19 booster dose along with other vaccines;
- (b) if so, the details along with the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the scientists of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have reported a new class of artificial peptides or miniproteins (molecules), which will be effective against COVID-19 by rendering viruses inactive and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the researchers are planning to bring out antiviral drugs against COVID-19 and other diseases and also tests for applications in the field of oncology; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b) : Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted no objection for additional indication of Covid-19 vaccine i.e. CORBEVAX for administration as heterologous booster (third) dose to individuals aged ≥ 18 years to 80 years after 6 months of administration of primary vaccination (two doses) of COVAXIN or COVISHIELD vaccine for conditional restricted use in emergency situation on 03.06.2022.

(c) to (e): Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has informed that Scientists at IISc developed a new class of artificial, synthetic peptide inhibitors.

As a proof of concept, they designed one such inhibitor that binds to the receptor binding site of the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, thus preventing infection both in the test tube and in a hamster animal model. In general, research on drugs that have been used for the treatment/management of COVID-19 are tested for repurposing in laboratory setting for other disease models including cancer.
