

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3444  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**USE OF MOLECULAR IODINE**

**3444. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data on the use of molecular iodine for prevention of diseases, including coronavirus infections, in the country and globally;
- (b) if so, the details of research, development and trials conducted in the country on molecular iodine and evidence regarding its efficacy in prevention or treatment of diseases;
- (c) whether any side effects, contraindications, or safety concerns have been identified in its use as per clinical or regulatory findings and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate the production, marketing, and use of molecular iodine in the country; and
- (e) whether any guidelines or approvals have been issued/proposed by agencies such as CDSCO or ICMR and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (e): Povidone Iodine has been a gold standard antiseptic for decades having microbicidal properties with proven efficacy against the previously identified beta corona-viruses. As per the review of scientific literature, few studies indicate the benefits of using povidone-iodine based mouth rinses and nasal sprays in SARS-CoV-2 management. However, these studies also show inadequate randomization methods and smaller samples. Broader iodine toxicology warns that excessive systemic iodine intake may disrupt thyroid function and cause mucosal irritation, metallic taste, and hypersensitivity reactions. Iodine antiseptics mitigate these risks by limiting systematic exposure through controlled topical application and appropriate dilution.

Other uses of Iodine include protection of thyroid gland from the effect of radiation from radioactive form of Iodine, preoperative skin antisepsis as Povidone-Iodine, broad spectrum of antimicrobial action against bacteria, fungi, protozoa and several viruses, and use in disinfecting drinking water, swimming pool water and waste water.

It has been informed by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) that no application has been received for the import /manufacturing and marketing or clinical trials for the molecular iodine for prevention of diseases, including coronavirus infections.

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