

**Title: Need to bring policy for providing licences for production of COVID-19 Vaccine ?
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SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government for taking immediate action to start the production of Covid-19 vaccine project by investing of Rs 900 crore which is kept idle for a decade and production of Viral Transport Medium (VTM) which has still not yet opened it's production. India is already and under Universal Immunisation (UIP) Programme administering BCG vaccines produced by BCG Vaccine Laboratory Guindy in Tamil Nadu. This HLL HBL project is capable of producing 100 million BCG doses and has obtained the test manufacturing license from Drug Controller from Government of Tamil Nadu. I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has given expression of interest on "as is where is basis Hon'ble Chief Minister has readily agreed for taking over HBL CPSU on " as is where is basis" including Scientists and employees who are having much experiences in this field. It has not yet materialized. Delay in allowing to start the production in HBL IVC project, appears to be that Central Government have decided to make over this State of the Art imbued with cGMP (cGood Manufacturing Practices) Government project to the private sector. Privatisation policy in the health and family sector will not be advisable to serve the people in giving affordable medicines and treatment as provided in the government sector. More than thousands of employees/scientists and contract labourers are working even without their statutory payments for months together. Particularly poorly paid contract labourers numbering more than thousands are working without minimum wages, social benefits. Hence, I request the honourable Minister to take necessary policy decision by providing licenses and taking speedy action to start the production of Covid-19 vaccines in Rs 900 crore invested HBL Project and devices in HLL (HBL) project. Apart from this, as a model employer take necessary pro-labour action on humanitarian grounds for clearing the due statutory wages to the employees/scientists and contract labourers and labour welfare measures may be taken.