

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010

TESTING FACILITIES FOR INFLUENZA A H1N1

Balram Shri P.;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified new testing method for Influenza A H1N1 in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and spent so far for the purpose;
- (c) the names of the laboratories in the country where testing facilities for the pandemic are available, State/UT-wise and location-wise;
- (d) whether masks, Viral Transport Medium (VTM) and other testing equipment for these laboratories were purchased at higher rates and the said fund was misused; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)/ Department of Health Research have identified indigenous kits (Primers and probe sequences candidates/systems) for detection of H1N1 virus. Apart from these PCR based systems, another testing system has also been developed by Defence Research & Development Organization, which is based on a new technology (RT-PCR lamp based system).

In addition to these, ICMR's NIV, Pune, has a proposal on point of care H1N1 detection using micro-PCR, which is in research mode and being carried out as R&D.

Development and validations of these systems are being self-supported by partner companies.

ICMR has earmarked Rs. 2.27 crores for this research.

(c) Government/Private Laboratories testing Pandemic H1N1 Flu in various States/UT Administrations is at Annexure.

(d) & (e) No.