

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:508

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

DEVELOPMENT OF FLU DETECTION KIT

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is engaged in development of cost effective H1N1 detection kit for swine flu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which this kit will be available in the market for the use of common man?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Madam. DRDO has developed a rapid and cost-effective "Swine flu virus H1N1 specific isothermal gene amplification assay" for reliable and early clinical diagnosis of H1N1 human patients.

(b) It is a single-tube method and cost-effective as compared to WHO approved Centre for Disease Control (CDC) recommended real-time Reverse Transcriptase (RT) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test system. The assay is based on principle of isothermal gene amplification protocol. No expensive real-time PCR equipment is required as the result can be monitored by naked eye. DRDO developed method gives result in an hour period as compared to the 3-4 hours required for WHO approved CDC recommended kit.

(c) DRDO developed kit has been validated at National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi; Post Graduate Institute, Chandigarh and National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences, Bangalore. The process for transfer of technology for commercialisation has also been initiated.