

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.158
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

COVID-19 VARIANTS

***158. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has collected data pertaining to Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest which were detected in the country during COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details of such variants/strains thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has adequate facilities for early detection and advance strategies for prevention of the spread of such variants in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 158* FOR 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

(a) to (d): The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), jointly initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is a consortium of laboratories to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2.

As per the data from INSACOG, 84,386 cases of VoCs and 5606 cases of VoIs have so far been sequenced in the country, as part of the larger set of all sequences done of SARS-CoV-2 virus. The lineage wise break up is at Annexure I.

At present, 52 laboratories across India are working under INSACOG consortium to monitor the genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2. The details are at Annexure II. For the sentinel surveillance, nearly 300 sentinel sites are identified to send samples to the regional sequencing labs through the integrated disease surveillance programme network. Sentinel site are expected to send at least 15 samples every 15 days to the identified IGSL as per standard specimen collection procure. Additionally, surge sampling of vaccine failures, atypical clinical presentations, super spreader events is also undertaken. Besides this, in view of threat of new variants (including the recent Omicron variant) entering from abroad, a Point of Entry (PoEs) screening is also undertaken.

The network carries out whole genome sequencing of SARS-Cov-2 to identify existing Variants of Concern (VoCs), Variants of Interest (VoIs) and new mutations and variants which could help in understanding of correlation of genomic variants with how the virus spreads, disease severity and provide information for public health response.

Health is a State subject. Union Ministry of Health & FW is supporting States through technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19 including containment and surveillance, testing, management of co-morbidities, clinical management protocols, post-COVID sequale, etc. besides logistic and funding support to manage the pandemic.

Annexure-I

Lineage wise break up of SARS-CoV-2 variants reported by INSACOG network of labs

VOC							VOI		
Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Delta Plus	Omicron	Total	Kappa	Eta (B.1.525)	Total
4265	220	3	42571	19967	17360	84,386	5603	3	5606

INSACOG network of laboratories

S.No.	Institute Name
1	National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani, West Bengal
2	Institute of Life Science (ILS), Bhubaneswar
3	Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (InSTEM/NCBS), Bengaluru
4	Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad
5	National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune
6	CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi
7	CSIR Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad
8	National institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Hospital (NIMHANS), Bengaluru
9	ICMR- National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune
10	National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi
11	North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat, Assam
12	National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, Maharashtra
13	Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
14	National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
15	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, West Bengal
16	Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh
17	Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, Manipur
18	Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
19	National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai, Tamil Nadu
20	Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
21	Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Dibrugarh, Assam
22	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, Karnataka
23	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
24	Centre for Brain Research Indian Institute of Science (CBR-IISc), Bangalore, Karnataka
25	Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College (BJGMC), Pune, Maharashtra
26	Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Gandhinagar, Gujarat
27	Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi
28	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune
29	Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, Haryana
30	Indra Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), Patna
31	Government Doon Medical College, Dehradun
32	Mahatma Gandhi Medical College (MGMC), Jaipur
33	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal
34	Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Secunderabad, A.P.
35	Sri Aurobindo Institute of Medical Sciences & Post Graduate Institute (SAIMS & PGI), Indore
36	Government Medical College, Patiala
37	Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Bengaluru
38	Kasturba Gandhi Hospital For Infectious Diseases, Mumbai
39	Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi
40	SMS Medical College, Jaipur
41	Pasteur Institute Shillong, Meghalaya
42	State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL), Chennai
43	Next Generation Genomics Sequencing Lab MDU Rohtak
44	Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysuru
45	Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute (BMCRI), Bengaluru
46	Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior
47	CSIR- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, Maharashtra
48	IMS, Banaras
49	Siddhartha medical college Vijayawada
50	National Institute of Immunology, Delhi
51	Shri Vinoba Bhave College & NAMO MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli,
52	King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow