

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 844  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021**

**COVID-19 BIO-REPOSITORIES**

**844. SHRI T.R.V.S RAMESH:**

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- a) whether the Government has set up COVID-19 Bio-repositories across the country;**
- b) if so, the details thereof;**
- c) the number of samples that have been archived so far; and**
- d) the manner in which this will benefit biomedical researchers?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES**

**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**(a) & (b)** Yes Sir, A total of 17 COVID-19 Bio-repositories have been notified by Government of India on 23-05-2020. These are set up at laboratories of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The list of Bio-repositories may please be seen at **Annexure A**.

**(c)** A total of 90,361 samples (Serum, Nasopharyngeal swab, Plasma, Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells etc.) have been archived so far across the 17 National COVID19 bio-repositories. 11,650 samples have been archived in ICMR COVID-19 bio-repositories, 41,239 samples have been archived in DBT COVID-19 bio-repositories and 37,472 samples have been archived in CSIR COVID-19 bio-repositories.

**(d)** These samples are being used to develop validated diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines etc. for COVID19 prevention, control and treatment. Additionally the samples are a valuable resource for research and development related activities to understand the early predictors of disease severity, immunopathogenesis of the disease etc.

\*\*\*\*

**List of COVID-19 Bio-repositories notified by Government of India:**

**COVID-19 Bio-repositories at DBT institutes:**

1. DBT-NCR Biotech Cluster- Translational Health Science and Technology Institute & Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad
2. DBT- Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar
3. DBT – Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, Bangalore
4. DBT funded Biorepository – Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi
5. DBT- National Centre for Cell Science, Pune

**COVID-19 Bio-repositories at ICMR institutes:**

6. ICMR- National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune
7. ICMR-NIV Field Unit, Bangalore
8. ICMR-NIV Field Unit, Allapuzha, Kerala
9. ICMR- National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata
10. ICMR- National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad
11. ICMR- National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases, Jodhpur
12. ICMR- National Institute of Malaria Research, Delhi
13. ICMR- National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai
14. ICMR- National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai

**COVID-19 Bio-repositories at CSIR institutes:**

15. CSIR – Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, N. Delhi
16. CSIR – Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad
17. CSIR - Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh