

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 754
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2022**

VIRUS RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

754. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether regional Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) for southern States i.e. JIPMER, Puducherry is conducting performance review of State and Medical College-level VRDLs on regular basis, if so, the details for financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23;
- (b) whether Department of Health Research (DHR) formulated and circulated any guidelines for all regional VRDLs for conducting reviews of VRDLs under its purview;
- (c) whether all staff recruitments are completed in VRDLs of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when DHR will provide the permanent core staff approved for regional VRDL(JIPMER, Puducherry) as per VRDL scheme guidelines(2021)?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): The review of the Viral Research and Diagnostic laboratories is conducted mainly through workshops, training programs & quality control activities. The regional level VRDLs also provide technical handholding of the state level and medical college level VRDLs in their region. The Regional Advocacy Workshops are conducted at the level of regional VRDL with the support of DHR-ICMR. During the COVID-19 pandemic, VRDL, JIPMER played a pivotal role in training and capacity building of all the COVID-19 testing labs in its catchment area. Also, VRDL JIPMER conducted a series of training workshops on quality control in Molecular and serological techniques in diagnostic virology during 2021-22.

(c) & (d): Out of total provision of 85 posts in VRDLs of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, 73 staff are in position. The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has given sanction for creation of 40 new posts (i.e. 10 - Scientist B (Med.), 10 –Scientist B(Non-Med.)and20-LabTechnicians) for Regional Level VRDLs.
