

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
13.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	74	88	64
15.	West Bengal	1	-	3
Total :-		158	285	200

[Translation]

Discovery Of Medicines By Indian Scientists

421. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHILIA :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN
CHANDRA KHANDURI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists have explored sources of medicines in Indian Ocean which can prove panacea in the remedy of several diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether progress in this work has been hindered by paucity of funds;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to extend any assistance to scientists for undertaking research in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether other countries have also undertaken such research and study; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the initiative taken by Indian Government for mutual assistance with such other countries in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under a 'National project on Development of Potential Drugs from the Ocean' sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development which is being coordinated by the Central Drugs Research Institute (CDRI) Lucknow, 10 important laboratories (Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Institutes, Universities and Medical Institutions) from different regions of the country are exploring marine flora and fauna to obtain biologically active compounds for use as drugs. The search in the following priority areas is being actively pursued i) Antifertility ii) Antiviral, iii) Antiparasitic (specially antimalarial), iv) Antiamoebic, v) CVS and CNS (Cardiovascular & Nervous System) active, vi) Antidiabetic and vii) Insecticidal pesticidal agents.

So far around hundred specimens out of more than 460 marine flora and fauna have been collected from different coastal regions and their extracts are being screened for above mentioned diseases. About ten marine flora and fauna have been identified as potentially bioactive against one or the other disease. Further investigation is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Department of Ocean Development is funding the National Project on Potential Drugs from Indian Ocean involving 10 national laboratories and institutions. This National Project is in the second phase spanning over the period 1993-1996. Earlier the first phase (1990-1993) of the National Project was also funded by Department of Ocean Development.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The exploration of sea resources for a potential drug is going on mainly in USA, West European countries and Japan. The priority area of their investigations is the search for a no anti cancer use. So far there has been formal interaction with laboratories/scientists of any of these countries in this area.