

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:975  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001  
DEVELOPMENT OF OCEAN BIOTECHNOLOGY  
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

**Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are making any efforts to identify the ocean biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof;
- (d) whether the biotechnology has got no scope in the field of ocean; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop the ocean biotechnology?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Project on 'Drugs from the Sea' to exploit the marine flora and fauna for development of drugs and traditional remedies is under implementation. In addition to this, studies are also undertaken on Indian horseshoe crab to detect the bioactive compound, marine fish tissues/oils to produce Eicosa Pentaenoic Acid, useful in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, neuropeptides of cyanobacteria of Arabian sea for production of endotoxins and exotoxins, and on marine seaweeds for bioactive properties useful in developing anti-cancer drugs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Departments of Biotechnology and Ocean Development and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, have a number of programmes ongoing in the IX Plan. The R & D in marine biotechnology would be continued with greater emphasis in the X Five Year Plan, which is under formulation.