

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2516
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
GENOME PROJECT
ALE NARENDRA;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;TARACHAND BHAGORA

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has decided on initiatives to tap knowledge on the international human genome project for the benefit of scientists involved in drug discovery and other health-related studies in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any High Power Committee have been set up to look after this project;
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up various bio-informatic centres to down load the information about genome and disseminate it to the medical scientists; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2516 FOR 14.3.2001.

Indian Council of Medical Research has been supporting research projects in the areas of genomics. However, with recent announcement of Human Genome map, it has become necessary that interpretation of genomic knowledge and its application for health sciences has to be taken on a priority basis. The Council has, therefore, invited research proposals from large number of research institutions and more than 100 proposals were considered in various areas related to health including development of drugs and vaccine. About 42 proposals have been recommended by Committees comprising of experts drawn from various institutes and scientific agencies. A high power committee will monitor progress of all these studies once sanctioned.

The Council also proposes to set up a networking of Bioinformatics centres at Medical Colleges and other Medical Institutions in the country and disseminate the information to other centres in the country. For the purpose 6 institutions have been identified in the first phase. The net working will be expanded to other centres in the country in future. The Department of Bio- Technology, in addition to the Bioinformatics Network comprising 55 centres, to facilitate the R&D efforts in Genomics, has established four sites to assess internationally renowned databases.