

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:396  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001  
DRUGS FROM SEA  
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

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

- (a) whether there is a programme `Drugs from Sea`;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the amount spent on this programme so far and the allocations made for the year 2001-2002;
- (d) whether any efforts have been made towards transfer of this technology of drugs from sea to the pharmaceutical companies for commercial use; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Project on `Drugs from Sea` initiated in 1991 with 10 participating institutes has collected and evaluated more than 4000 samples out of 1400 numbers of marine flora and fauna for their biological activity. Several of these samples were found to exhibit mild to strong therapeutic activities like antidiabetic, antidiarrhoeal, antihyperlipidaemic, etc from various fractions derived therefrom. Three organisms or extracts were taken up for further development. These are given below:

- CDR-134D-123 (Antidiabetic)
- CDR-134D-125 (Antidiarrhoeal)
- CU002/004 (Antihyperlipidaemic)

These three samples have shown activities in repeated collections and were taken up for toxicity studies during the IX Five Year Plan. The rodent toxicity has been completed on the above first two preparations and these were found safe. These toxicity studies have now been initiated in monkeys. The toxicity of the third preparation has been started in July 2001.

(c) The total amount on the programme spent during 1990-2001 is Rs.18.74 crores and for the year 2001-2002, Rs.2.19 crores is provided.

(d) & (e) Drug development takes 8-12 years and commercialization is done after toxicity studies are over. In this case, the toxicity studies are currently underway.