

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3038
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
R & D WORK
BRAJ MOHAN RAM;C. KRISHNAN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that R&D wing is lagging behind in achieving the target in the field of medicine and agriculture;
- (b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to strengthen research and development work in this regard; and
- (c) the percentage of funds to be spent on this account during the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) It is not correct to state that the R&D in agriculture and medicine is lagging behind in achieving the target as development of new varieties of crops, improving the technologies for development of new drugs and vaccines have taken place in the recent past. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the nodal agency for research and development activities in medicine particularly in communicable diseases, contraception, maternity and child health, nutrition, non-communicable diseases and biomedical research. ICMR is also engaged in research on tribal health, traditional medicine and publication and dissemination of information. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in research on soil and water conservation, animal husbandry, dairy development, fisheries, forestry, All India Coordinated Programmes on various crops, etc. Government has made substantial investments to strengthen R&D work in these areas. Other Government departments like the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have R&D promotion programmes to supplement the activities in the areas of medical research and agriculture.

(c) Plan funds to be spent on this account during the current financial year (1999-2000) are as follows :-

- (i) Agriculture Rs. 504.00 Crores.
- (ii) Medicine Rs. 59.25 Crores.