

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1435  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2006  
MEDICINES FOR DIABETES AND CANCER  
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**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian scientists are undertaking research in Ocean to locate AMRIT (elixir) after successful breakthrough in discovery of ocean medicines for curing diabetes and cancer ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the success achieved so far ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a), (b) and (c) No Sir. The Government is not aware of any research endeavors on locating AMRIT (elixir) from the Ocean. However, the Indian Scientists are undertaking research on `Development of potential drugs from the ocean`. This programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences is aimed at developing drugs for different diseases like diabetes, dyslipidemia, malaria, tuberculosis, Central Nervous System

(CNS) disorders, anti-infective, anti-fertility and cancer. So far over 6500 marine samples have been screened leading to identification of three potential drugs [  
(i) CDR-134-D-123 for antidiabetic and  
(ii) CDR-134-F-194 and  
(iii) CDR-267-F-018 for anti-diabetic-cum-anti-hyper-lipidemic activities]. Human trials have been initiated for the development of anti-diabetic drug on CDR-134-D-123. The other two compounds are in different stages of pre-clinical investigations. Further, Indian scientists have identified molecular targets for screening anti-cancer leads from marine resources. The Ministry has initiated an action to include three more national institutes and one private pharmaceutical industry, having core facilities in developing drugs for anti-cancer activities.