

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1301  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009  
DRUG INNOVATION  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to promote drug innovation;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to clarify the scope of the section 3
- (d) of the Indian Patents Act;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) The Government has taken several steps to promote drug innovation. Following the creation of the new Deptt. in July 2008 various proposals have been formulated and forwarded to the Planning Commission for their examination and 'in principle' approval. These programmes are at different stages of approval and implementation. The Department is working in consultation with various Govt. Departments and organizations including the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health Sc Family welfare for building up basic support systems to create the enabling environment for R&D initiatives by creating the required infrastructure as well as mechanisms and linkages to facilitate R&D. Six new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPERs) are being set up to create the appropriate development of human resources for Pharma R&D.

Different Pharmaceutical companies are involved in drug discovery and formulation research alongwith Government Departments/Institutions like Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, ICMR, AYUSH etc. Drug discovery and development is a continuous and long drawn process involving 10-12 years of time aiming at manufacturing safe, potent and affordable drugs. Innovation in drug development is one of the focused areas of CSIR. Through effort under XI Five Year Plan and Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) modalities under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NM11TI), CSIR is pursuing well focused projects. The diseases that are being focused in various research initiatives include: arthritis, asthma, cancer, cholera, diabetes, HIV infection, hepatic disorders, kala azar, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, psoriasis, sepsis, staphylococcus infection and tuberculosis.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has geared up for Research & Development of new drugs. There are about 58 companies in the pharmaceutical sector having R&D centres approved by DSIR u/s. 35 (2AB) of the Income Tax Act. out of which about 15 companies are carrying out Research & Development in new drugs and have built up requisite R&D infrastructure and expertise. The therapeutic areas in which these companies have developed lead molecules are malaria, urology, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular indications, cancer, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, inflammation & pain, staphylococcal infections, respiratory infections, skin infections, anti-migraine, anti-TB and anti-psoriasis.

Thus the Government is exploring various avenues to facilitate research and build up basic support systems for promoting R&D.

(b, c & d) Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) has informed that they have no proposal to amend the Patent Act including Section 3(d).