

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4731
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
BIO-PHARMACEUTICALS
Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) whether bio-pharmaceuticals are the cutting edge medicines which can make health-care more affordable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to develop and promote this sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The biopharmaceuticals are the cutting edge medicines which can make healthcare more affordable especially for diseases like cancer, diabetes, anaemia, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and various rare diseases. Since the patents of the first generation of the biopharmaceuticals have expired, substitutes to these original drugs known as biosimilars are produced which are cheaper and affordable compared to original drugs.

(c) The Government is actively involved in putting all guidelines and framework for biopharmaceuticals in place in order to develop and promote this sector. The biopharmaceuticals are regulated under Rules 1989 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and Rules 1945 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.