

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1881
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011
BENEFITS OF GENOME RESEARCH .
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to ensure that the people of the country derive the health benefits consequent to the remarkable and unique achievement made in genome research;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which Ministry of Science and Technology is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to extend the benefit of the new development to the larger masses?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING COMMISSION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is implementing a major programme in the area of Human Genetics & Genome Analysis since 1990-91. Department has established 21 genetic diagnosis cum counseling units to provide patient services across the country. The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics of DBT in collaboration with Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad is also providing genetic diagnosis cum counseling services to the affected families. The Department has recently established National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) in Kalyani, West Bengal. The institute is devoted to research and training in genomics in health and disease and to promote genomics based services in West Bengal.

The Department is supporting over 200 projects in genomic and genetic research related to health. Centre of Excellence have been supported in leading institutes including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore etc. India is a major participant in the International Cancer Genomics Consortium with focus on oral cancer.

The Department has drawn detailed plans to support research, education and training under the 11th Plan, which is under implementation.

(c) The Department in consultation with Department of Health Research, Indian Council of Medical Research and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is involved in planning and execution of major projects in the area of human genetics and genomics including the Asian Indian Donor Marrow Registry (AIDMR) for organ transplant at AIIMS, New Delhi. Close cooperation between the Ministry of Science & Technology and Health & Family Welfare would potentially benefit the larger masses in terms of health care etc.