

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5952

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

SETTING UP OF AIDS VACCINE DESIGN LABORATORY

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up AIDS Vaccine Design Laboratory in Gurgaon, a first of its kind laboratory in South Asia through Public Private Partnership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such laboratories are likely to be set up in other parts of the country also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has initiated a collaborative programme to accelerate HIV Vaccine discovery research as a Product Development Partnership between Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Gurgaon, Haryana (an autonomous institution of the Department) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI – a global not-for profit organization). The programme aims to establish innovative high throughput technologies for design of candidate immunogens which would ensure elicitation of broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV-1. The programme is targeted to discover and advance the novel HIV vaccine candidates to be used as preventive vaccine by public sector in India. This unique endeavour would involve interdisciplinary interaction and driven by the principles of collaboration, high-quality science and vaccine-oriented applied research. It shall engage Indian scientists, build scientific capacity and foster inclusive innovation process in India, enhance global R&D efforts towards strengthening, sharing and commercialization of scientific knowledge. It will be a part of the global network of R&D facilities, including IAVI's Neutralizing Antibody Consortium and AIDS Vaccine Design and Development Laboratory, Brooklyn, New York.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Currently, there is no plan of setting up of similar initiatives in the country.