GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
PROGRESS IN SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

(a) whether the country has failed to achieve success in the fields of Science and Technology as a result of which neither capacity of super computer has expanded nor new medicines have been developed and there is lack of research in Genome sequencing;

(b) if so, whether the Government is making efforts to take the country to new heights on the front of Science and Technology; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The country's contribution in various areas of Science and Technology (S&T) such as genome sequencing of rice and tomato and drug discovery etc. many of which are under clinical trials is well recognised world over. In addition, the Government is determined to encourage S&T by focussing investment in areas where the country has already taken lead or its lead is at par with the R&D activities of other countries.

In addition, to the above, the Government i.e. Planning Commission, through the Department of Science & Technology, has prepared and approved a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for "Building Indian Supercomputing capacity and capability during the 12th Plan Period". Further, recognizing the Indian capabilities Government through the Institutes and the Laboratories have entrusted genome sequencing of other cash rich crops for passing on the benefits of sequencing to the farmers. The Department has initiated projects for development of drugs for diseases that affect common man such as leprosy, Malaria, TB, Japanese Encephilitis, Syphillis, Leishmaniasis, Filariasis, HIV/AIDS, Tetanus, Measles, Drug resistant enteric fever, Hepatitis B, Skin disorders like Leucoderma and psoriasis. In addition research activities focusing on Diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular disorders, Dengue besides addressing neurological diseases like dementia and Parkinsons Disease have been taken up by the Ministry. Joint Research proposals are also supported for the drug development involving the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine for the scientific validation of at least five formulations of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM) including Veterinary medicines.

The efforts have resulted in commercialization of products like Alquit (A herbal product for the control of animal ecto-parasites); Bonista (Parathyroid Hormone as injectable for Ostepoprosis); Receptol (A colostrums based protein for the management of HIV/AIDS); Rhoclone (Anti-Rho-D immunoglobulin Injection (Monoclonal) 300 mcg developed for hemolytic disease of the new born). 9 New molecules discovered are under different stages of trials. So far 22 product patents and 13 process patents have been obtained by the Ministry.