

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3498  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015  
QUALITY OF MEDICINES  
Pathak Smt. Riti

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to fund small scale pharma units for procurement of sophisticated instruments for improving the quality of medicines in the country;
- (b) the details of research projects funded by the Government through national laboratories for small scale pharma units during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the details and value of instruments that are non-functional for more than six months in various Government aided scientific laboratories in the country; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) The Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme (DPRP) through which several steps have been taken such as providing soft loan to Indian Pharma industries including small scale units for Research and Development (R&D) activities towards efficacy, safety and clinical study of new molecules which also includes support for sophisticated instruments. The Ministry, under its PACE (Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research and Technology Development) programme supported by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) provides partial support for purchasing equipment and machinery including those in small scale and pharmaceutical sector. In addition, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Enterprise of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), funds innovative start ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the Biotech Sector, which also include pharma units for developing affordable healthcare products. The innovation research grant component includes purchase of equipment which are required for the research activities. The Technology Development Board (TDB) provides financial assistance to industrial concerns for commercialization of indigenous technologies. Since inception in 1996, TDB has provided financial assistance to 21 companies in the field of pharma. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is implementing the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Schemes (CLCSS) to provide incentives to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) for technology upgradation for approved 48 Sub-Sectors including Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Sub-Sector. Under this scheme, loan of Rs. 1.00 crore is given to MSEs for technology upgradation and 15% capital subsidy is being provided (limited to maximum Rs. 15.00 lakhs) to these MSEs. So far, 556 Pharmaceutical MSEs units have benefited under this scheme.

(b) The details of research projects funded by the Ministry to national laboratories during the last three years are given at Annexure-I

(c) & (d): The Government aided scientific laboratories in the country are governed by General Financial Rules (GFR) and established principles. The details and value of instruments are available with research laboratories in the country including their functionality. The laboratories take necessary remedial measures for running and maintenance of such scientific instruments.