GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1418
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Alzheimers Disease
Bharathi Mohan Shri R.K.

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

(a) Whether the Government has any plan to devise any system to identify early onset of various diseases including Alzheimer's Disease (AD) in order to prevent people at high risk;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the details therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been working since its inception on cost-effective and India-centric tools for early diagnosis of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. Many kits have been transferred to the industry and currently are in the market as well as used in Government run disease-control programmes. Specifically on Alzheimer's Disease (AD), research has been going on at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), an autonomous Institute of the DBT, in collaboration with the NIMHANS and AIIMS, to develop procedures to identify early stage of Alzheimer"s Disease using cognitive testing, imaging tools i.e., MRI & PET brain, and real time metabolite testing for early changes in metabolites such as glutathione by Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. Genetic predisposition using body fluids is also under research. EU & the US patents have been taken on such procedures and being used on patients at most tertiary care hospitals. More advanced research is going on to make the usable at the population level.
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