

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2805

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016

Bacteria in Currency Notes

Dubey Shri Satish Chandra

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

- (a) whether the currency notes have been found to harbour bacteria and viruses in a research conducted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;
- (b) if so, the details of the places at which the workers face the threat of their transmission; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) through an exploratory research effort has noticed presence of genetic materials in the rupee notes. The genetic material on fomites was noticed through high-throughput Deoxy-ribo Nucleic Acid (DNA) sequencing. The presence of genetic materials does not confirm to presence of live micro-organisms.

(b)&(c) The objective of the study was purely exploratory using the power of high-throughput sequencing and metagenomics analysis. Samples of denominations Rs. 10, Rs. 20 and Rs. 100 were collected in sterile plastic bags from random spots such as street vendors, grocery shops, snack bars, canteen, tea shops, hardware shops, chemists, etc. across the Delhi city metropolitan area.

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