

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1618

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

DEVELOPMENT OF DRUGS

Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

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

- (a) the present position in respect of development of pharmaceutical drugs and research in the country;
- (b) the steps being taken to improve pharmaceutical research;
- (c) whether the Government has set up/ proposes to set up a venture capital fund for supporting pharmaceutical research infrastructure development projects in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the guidelines formulated for investment from the said fund?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER FOR EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Indian pharmaceutical industry has witnessed a robust growth over the past few years moving on from a turnover of approx. US \$ 1 billion in 1990 to over US \$ 20 billion in 2010 of which the export turnover is approximately US \$ 8 billion. As per the report on R&D Scenario in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry prepared by Research and Information System for Developing Countries an autonomous think tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, Indian pharmaceutical industries spent 5 % of its sales turn over in R&D in the year 2011 as compared to 1% in 1994-95. The industry ranks 3rd in terms of volume and is 14th in terms of value globally. India has a large branded generics market which enables most companies to launch their version of a generic drug in the market place. Several Government institutions like CSIR and ICMR labs, companies, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutes are undertaking drug discovery and research in the country. The areas of research undertaken by these companies and institutions include, anti-cancer, anti-tuberculosis, cardiovascular, anti diabetic, vaccines and other biologicals etc.

(b) Government has taken several steps for strengthening Research & Development in pharmaceuticals sector through fiscal incentives to R&D units, streamlining of procedures concerning development of new drug molecules, clinical research and new drug delivery systems leading to new R&D set-ups with excellent infrastructure in the field of original drug discovery.

Source: Department of
Pharmaceutical URL: pharmaceuticals.gov.in/

The Department of Science & Technology is supporting drug research through Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme. This programme supports industry institutional collaborative R&D projects, creating state-of-the-art national facilities in research laboratories and academic institutions and soft loan with a simple interest of 3% per annum to pharma industry R&D projects and grant-in-aid to industries in clinical trials for neglected diseases.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been pursuing R&D activities in the domain of drugs and pharmaceuticals with the focus on affordable healthcare. In doing so, CSIR's efforts are focused on understanding the disease biology; disease diagnostics; high end chemistry based process development for generic drugs; and creating innovative platforms for enhancing the innovation in the domain. The disease area covered includes tuberculosis, malaria, leishmania, cancer diabetes, neurodegenerative disease, bone fracture, reproductive dysfunction and contraceptives. CSIR efforts are also for preventive health and disease management, development of next generation bio-therapeutics, understanding the mechanism of complex diseases, system based drug design, stem cell biology and regenerative medicine and understanding bio-energetic disorders. CSIR is also undertaking activities under Open Source Drug Discovery programme to address the problems related to drug discovery for tuberculosis.

Department of Bio Technology (DBT) has supported a Drug Discovery Research Centre at the Translational Health Science & Technology Institute, Gurgaon. This Centre serves as a technology-intensive base which can spur the human health-related research activities in the country. In addition DBT has also supported through its Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) – a public sector unit, various public-private partnership schemes viz. Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP), Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) and Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) in the drug discovery and research right from identification of molecules, characterization and taking them further.

Department of Pharmaceuticals has a vision for the promotion of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry through development of human resources, creation of infrastructure and public-private partnership, promote pharma brand India by international cooperation, development of environmentally sustainable industry, enable availability, accessibility and affordability of drugs. In addition, the Department has approved the establishment of National Centre for Research and Development in Bulk Drug (NCRDBD) at National

Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and with Research (NIPER), Hyderabad at a total cost of Rs. 54.20 Crore along with operating cost of Rs. 37.43 Crore.

(c) & (d): Govt. of India has taken an initiative through its constituent Department of Pharmaceuticals for setting up of Venture Capital Fund (VCF) for supporting pharmaceutical research infrastructure development. The Department has engaged National Institute of Public Finance Policy (NIPFP) to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up venture capital fund. The Department has invited the suggestions from pharma industry, financial institutions and other stake holders on the DPR.