

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3031
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/03/2018**

Anti-Microbial Resistance Fund

3031. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

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

- a) whether the Government through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council has invested an initial \$1,00,000 in an anti-microbial resistance fund;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the need for the anti-microbial resistance;
- d) if so, the details thereof; and
- e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

a&b) Yes, Madam, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has provided support to Innovators for creating a pipeline of innovations for the Longitude Prize in the area of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The Discovery Awards were launched in 2016 and 9 Indian teams have been funded so far.

c&d) To generate relevant evidence on the extent of drug resistance in the country, ICMR has initiated the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) in 2013. The ICMR's network monitors AMR patterns in following six pathogenic groups:

- Diarrheagenic bacterial organisms, CMC, Vellore
- Enteric fever pathogens: AIIMS, New Delhi
- Enterobacteriaceae causing sepsis: PGIMER, Chandigarh
- Gram negative non fermenters: CMC, Vellore
- Gram positives including MRSA: JIPMER, Pondicherry
- Fungal infections: PGIMER, Chandigarh

The six nodal centers (NCs) for the above mentioned pathogenic groups collect data from four tertiary care hospitals across the country. The nodal centers follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) formulated by ICMR to collect resistance data. The data for the year 2014 and 2015 are available on ICMR website.

The Department of Biotechnology in partnership with Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK) commissioned a study mapping the AMR research landscape in India. This report summarizes the current AMR situation in India and identifies research gaps to determine future research priorities in India. Detailed report is available in the public domain at <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/ScopingreportonAntimicrobialresistanceinIndia.pdf>."

e) Does not arise
