

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide sufficient funds for research activities in pharmaceutical industry in the country.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Pharmaceutical industry holds an important and prime position in the scheme of things as it takes care of the health aspect when it comes to caring and treatment of people. It goes a long way in ensuring the health of the country. But to the utter astonishment of every one, the amount of funds infused for research in the pharmaceutical industry is not only insignificant but also negligible. Things should not be like this. Research activities should be given all the push and patronage is required in the pharmaceutical industry. Unless and until, efforts are made to allocate more funds, how can we tackle growing diseases all through the years as we are facing numerous issues concerning spread of vector-borne diseases in the monsoon season. On the one hand we seek more funds for research, on the other hand, when the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) sought Rs. 249 crore during the 12th plan a paltry sum of Rs. 9.39 crore has been received by NIPER. Under such despicable circumstances, how can the NIPER carry out research and compete with MNCs which take away large slice of medicine manufacturing.

Keeping in view the above sorry state of affairs, I would like to strongly urge the Government to ponder over research funds in pharmaceutical industry and allocate more and more funds so that a way out could be found for caring and treating diseases prevailing in vast areas of our country and at the same time compete with the MNCs so that the prices of medicines are brought down.