

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to implement Food for All Law in the country; and
- (b) if so, the nature thereof and by when the same is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4-6-2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, *inter-alia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are under consideration of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider various issues concerning the proposed law on food security. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft Bill would be prepared and the same would be put on the website of the Department for public scrutiny and comments.

R&D in pharma industry

*192. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of research and development (R&D) in the Indian pharma industry; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the development of infrastructure facilities with private sector for research and development?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. K. ALAGIRI): (a) and (b) The role of Government of India is that of a facilitator in promoting pharma industry, including Research and Development (R&D), through fiscal and non fiscal measures which impact the pharmaceutical industry. The following fiscal/non-fiscal measures have been taken in this regard:

Government is providing various fiscal measures such as weighted tax deduction @ 150% under section 35(2AB) of Income Tax Act, 1961, and promoting outsourcing research by providing a proposed weighted deduction of 125% to companies engaged in Research and Development. Various non-fiscal measures are being provided by Department of Science and Technology through Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme of Department of Science and Technology and

Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) of Department of Biotechnology for promoting Research and Development in Pharmaceutical Sector.

As per para 22.6.1 of the Modifications in Drugs Policy, 1986 announced in 1994, a new drug which has not been produced elsewhere, if developed through indigenous R&D would be put outside price control for a period of 10 years from the date of commercial production in favour of the Company who undertook the R&D.

Following the creation of new Department in July 2008, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has initiated action for establishment of two Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)-compliant Biological Testing laboratories, one GLP compliant Chemical Testing laboratory and one GLP compliant Large Animal facility in the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for boosting indigenous manufacturing and testing for developing safe, potent and affordable medicines for the masses.

An initiative has been taken for establishing the Pharmaceutical and Life Science Incubator at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad with an aim to bridge the gap between research and industry. It will facilitate entrepreneurs develop, test and prove the technology by providing services on 'one-stop' basis for rapid implementation of new projects.

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali was established under The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act 1998. The NIPER, Mohali was declared to be an institution of national importance. The main objectives, *inter alia* being:

- i) to nurture and promote quality and excellence in pharmaceutical education & research;
- ii) to concentrate on courses leading to master's degree, doctoral and post doctoral courses and research in pharmaceutical education;
- iii) to develop a world level centre for creation of new knowledge and transmission of existing information in pharmaceutical areas, with focus on national, educational, professional and industrial commitments;
- iv) to develop a multi-disciplinary approach in carrying out research and training of pharmaceutical manpower so that the large interests of the profession, academia and

pharmaceutical industry are better served and a pharmaceutical work culture is evolved which is in tune with the changing world trends and patterns of pharmaceutical education and research;

- v) to act as a nucleus for interaction between academy and industry by encouraging exchange of scientist and other technical staff between the Institute and the industry and by undertaking sponsored and funded research as well as consultancy projects by the Institute;

NIPER, Mohali is now recognized the world over for its quality of research and teaching. Government has since set up six new NIPERs under the NIPER Act 1998 as amended from time to time at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Hajipur, Rae Bareilly and Guwahati. At present new NIPERs are functioning with the help of mentor institutes.

Besides, the Government of India is promoting standards of excellence, research and development in the field of pharmaceuticals through other Ministries and Departments like Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, etc., which are working to create the enabling environment for R&D initiatives by creating the required infrastructure as well as mechanisms and linkages to facilitate R&D in Pharmaceuticals.

The Department of Science and Technology has been implementing a Plan Scheme titled Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme (DPRP) for promoting collaborative R&D in drugs and pharmaceuticals sector with the following objectives:

- i) to synergise the strengths of publicly funded R&D institutions and Indian Pharmaceutical Industry;
- ii) to stimulate skill development of human resources in R&D for drugs and pharmaceuticals;
- iii) to extend soft loans for Pharma industrial R&D projects;
- iv) to enhance the nation's self-reliance in drugs and pharmaceuticals especially in areas critical to national health requirements.

42 state-of-the-art infrastructure for Pharmaceutical R&D have been created in different premier institutions and Universities on Bio-availability, Pharmacoinformatics, Regulatory Toxicology, Safety Pharmacology at NIPER, Mohali, Pharmacokinetic and Metabolic Studies, Regulatory

Pharmacology & Toxicology, Medium Throughput Screening at Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow; Transgenic & Gene Knockout Mice, Clinical Research facility to Stem Cell Technologies and regenerative medicine, Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, Bioequivalence, Pharmacovigilance, New Chemical Entities development, Animal Facility for Indian System of Medicine, etc. have been created in other Universities and Institutions.

These facilities are utilized for R&D by institutions and pharmaceutical industries including small entrepreneurs. The amount provided by DPRP to various institutions for establishing state-of-the-art research facilities during the last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is Rs. 50.15 crores, Rs 27.20 crores and Rs.18.96 crores respectively. During 2010-11 Rs. 5.72 crore have been released for such research facilities.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) under Ministry of Science and Technology is operating a scheme entitled 'New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. It has supported many projects in diverse areas including Drugs & Pharmaceuticals. It has projects on cancer, diabetes, psoriasis, lysostaphin, eye-infections, herbal medicines, heart failure, medical implants etc.

The Department of Biotechnology is implementing the scheme "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)" to support biotech sector for research and development. The Department supports the activities of the private industry including Pharma industry in the Project mode. Similarly, the Department has also initiated a scheme on "Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)" for high risk, transformational technology/process development and support is provided to private industry including Pharma industry for shared major research facilities around technology platform as core facilities.

Government is thus exploring various avenues to promote standards of excellence, research and development in the pharmaceuticals industry.

Share of Jharkhand in railway projects

*193. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 66 per cent is being charged for railway projects from the State of Jharkhand as State's share whereas it is 50 percent in respect of other States; and