

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1974
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH MARCH, 2021

R&D on drugs for newly emerging diseases

1974 Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:

Will the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any programme for research and development (R&D) on new drugs/vaccines for treatment of newly emerging diseases across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has constituted any inter-departmental Committee for R&D in pharmaceuticals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) & (b): The Department has set up seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) at Mohali (Punjab), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Hyderabad (Telangana), Guwahati (Assam), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to nurture and promote quality and excellence in pharmaceutical education and research in India. These are institutes of national importance, which besides imparting master's and doctorate education, conduct high end research in various specializations of pharmaceuticals.

Further, the Department of Biotechnology is implementing the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) through Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). This PAN-India program is focused on making India a hub for development of novel, affordable and effective vaccines, biotherapeutics and medical devices for combating public health concerns. The Department of Biotechnology is also supporting the implementation of the Ind-CEPI Mission entitled "Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)" which aim to support vaccine development for diseases of epidemic potential in India. The Mission was approved for implementation in March, 2019 for a period of five years and is part of a broader Initiative called the Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission - Undertaking Nationally Relevant Technology Innovation (UNaTI).

(c) & (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has set up an Inter- Departmental Committee (IDC) in January, 2019 to periodically review and coordinate research work undertaken by various governmental organization under different Central Ministries/ Departments in a collaborative, synchronized and synergized way for optimum utilization of funds and to ensure no overlapping

and duplication of efforts and resources occur. Further, the Department has recently set up a High level inter-departmental Committee including eminent industry leaders/ experts to frame a Policy on R&D and Innovation including Academia-industry linkage in Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices.

Further, the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) under the Department of Biotechnology is supporting the development of candidate vaccines for Cholera, Influenza, Dengue, Chikungunya, Pneumococcal disease and COVID-19, for establishing shared facilities for vaccine development, funding of Technology Transfer Offices, supporting the development of TRC for chikungunya and dengue and the establishment of Clinical Trial Networks, Field sites for conducting epidemiology studies and preparing for conduct of population-based vaccine trials, Clinical trial consortium of hospitals across the country for specialities of Oncology, Rheumatology, Ophthalmology and Diabetology, Trainings and workshops are organised for enhancing skill development and capacity building activities.
