

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1466  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

**Research and development in pharma sector**

**1466 Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

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

- (a) the details regarding Research and Development (R&D) expenditure of Indian pharmaceutical companies/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) across various segments during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to enhance the expenditure on R&D activities for development of new drugs;
- (c) the details of the new drug molecules developed in the country;
- (d) steps taken to promote the production and use of nano fertilizer; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to facilitate the development of new drug molecules in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a): Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a PSU under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) supports Research and Development (R&D) of drugs, through its various schemes and programmes. The year-wise details of fund disbursements to various companies/institutes for R&D by BIRAC are as under:

<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
120.61 cr.	142.21 cr.	149.56 cr.	150.67 cr.	137.73 cr.

All the five pharma PSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals have been identified for closure/ strategic sale. The details of R&D expenditure of three functional PSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals are as under:

<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
2.21 cr.	2.64 cr.	2.33 cr.	2.65 cr.	1.12 cr.

The information regarding R&D expenditure by private pharmaceutical companies is not maintained by the department.

(b): R&D and innovation in pharma sector is done by number of institutions and organizations under various scientific ministries/ departments, which have their own budgetary provisions. Department of Pharmaceuticals has set up seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPERs) as institutes of national importance, which besides imparting

postgraduate and doctorate education, conduct high end research in various pharma specializations. The Department has already incurred an expenditure of more than Rs. 1,600 cr for setting up of these institutes. Further, Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved Rs. 1500 cr. for up-gradation of campuses of these existing seven NIPERs for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

(c): Various laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are working for repurposing and clinical trial for drugs used for COVID-19, as well as working on various drug candidates/ lead compounds. Similar efforts are being undertaken by various institutes/ laboratories functioning under other departments.

(d): In order to boost indigenous production of Nano Urea in the country, two Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSUs), viz., National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) under administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) to transfer technology of Nano Urea production from IFFCO.

(e): NIPERs, after detailed inter departmental consultations have formulated a programme on Drug Discovery for Affordable Healthcare in mission mode. Further, various institutes of CSIR have also developed various mission mode projects for focussed efforts on new drug development. CSIR-CDRI has built a unique model for drug research in India – having everything under one roof, from synthesis, screening, development studies, process up-scaling to clinical studies for the development of drugs. BIRAC also supports the development of new drug molecules in the country through its various schemes.

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