

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.179
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04TH FEBRUARY 2025

Promoting pharmaceutical research

179 Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:

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

- (a) whether India's investment at 0.83 per cent of GDP is among countries with lowest in scientific research and whether Government has looked into lack of research in pharmaceutical sector;
- (b) if so, the measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Government is aware that new medicines, devices, diagnostics, patient aids and monitoring tools continue to be imported due to lack of development in the country and often reach us at higher costs;
- (d) the steps taken to reduce import dependency and encourage local innovation; and
- (e) whether Government could provide update on proposed establishment of campus of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research(NIPER) in Visakhapatnam, sanctioned in 2016?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d): As per the 'Research and Development Statistics at a Glance, 2022-23' brought out by the Department of Science and Technology, the pharmaceutical sector accounted for more than 33% of the share of Industrial Research and Development (R&D) in the financial year 2020-21, making it the most attractive sector for such expenditure. In addition, various departments and agencies of the Government have taken a number of measures to further encourage R&D in the pharmaceutical sector, which include the following:

- (i) Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech sector of the Department of Pharmaceuticals;
- (ii) Support to research and innovation for development of innovative technologies and products for affordable healthcare by the Department of Biotechnology;
- (iii) Schemes and initiatives of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, a public sector enterprise of the Department of Biotechnology, to support development of affordable products and technologies by startups, small and medium enterprises and large companies;
- (iv) With a view to encourage local innovation, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 provides for exemption from price control to formulations developed through indigenous R&D for certain period, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions; and

- (v) The constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are engaged in development of new drugs, process technologies and diagnostics, necessary infrastructure and human resources for promoting Atmanirbharta and reducing import dependence in the sector.

To encourage domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has taken a number of measures through various schemes, which include the following:

- (1) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs) / Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the Country;
- (2) PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals;
- (3) PLI Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices;
- (4) Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks; and
- (5) Scheme for Promotion of Medical Device Parks.

(e): Government did not sanction a NIPER at Vishakhapatnam in 2016.
