

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.830
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

Research and development in the pharmaceutical sector

830 Shri Golla Baburao:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy or roadmap for enhancing research and development (R&D) in the pharmaceutical sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total budget allocation and actual spending on pharmaceutical R&D in the last three years;
- (d) the reasons for this low allocation and underspending;
- (e) whether Government has taken any efforts towards promoting industry-academia collaborations for pharmaceutical R&D; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) and (b): The Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Government of India has brought out the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India, with the objective of achieving *Atmanirbharata* in the Pharma-MedTech sector through measures to accelerate research and development (R&D) and innovation in the sector. Details of the same are available on the Department's website (<https://pharma-dept.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notification%20-%20R%26D%20Policy.pdf>).

(c) and (d): R&D in the pharmaceutical sector is carried out by various institutions and organisations under various ministries and departments of the Government. Each department has its own consolidated budget for R&D, which is utilised for alternative R&D in various areas, including pharmaceuticals. The total R&D expenditure for pharmaceuticals, as reported by various ministries and departments, over the three-year period from the financial year (FY) 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 is ₹1,403.85 crore.

(e) and (f): The Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech sector launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals provides for the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in each of the seven National Institutes for Pharmaceuticals Education and Research (NIPERs), with industry-academia collaboration. In addition, established Pharma-MedTech companies undertaking research in six identified priority areas in collaboration with academia are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is promoting industry-academia collaborations through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), by setting up incubation centres in research institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology, NIPERs, hospitals, etc. DBT-BIRAC also support translational research and commercialisation of technology through a number of funding schemes and programmes.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is promoting R&D in the pharmaceutical sector through its Therapeutic Chemicals programme for the development of Key starting materials, intermediates and raw materials. Under this, it has created five clusters, namely, Chennai Tirupati Bengaluru Cluster, Hyderabad Cluster, Mumbai Pune Cluster, Dehradun Himachal Cluster and Kolkata Guwahati Cluster. These clusters may collaborate with relevant industry for their inputs to identify priority chemicals and for commercialisation of the identified chemicals.
