

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

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*172  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 04<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2026

**Use of AI in drug discovery**

**172 Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha:**

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

- (a) whether the Department of Pharmaceuticals is promoting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in drug discovery, clinical trials and regulatory approvals; and
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that while AI can significantly improve speed and efficiency, increasing reliance on AI-driven recommendations in critical decision-making could risk reduced human oversight, especially in matters concerning the safety, efficacy and approval of medicines; and
- (c) how the Ministry plans to address this concern to ensure patient safety and regulatory accountability?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

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(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

**Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Q. No. \*172 (7<sup>TH</sup> POSITION) for answer on 04.08.2026 raised by Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha regarding the “*Use of AI in drug discovery*”**

(a): Department of Pharmaceuticals has taken steps to promote research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and meditech sector through scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP). Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to eligible R&D projects in identified priority areas viz. New Medicines, Complex generic and Biosimilars and Novel medical devices. Such projects may include entities using AI and digital tool in drug discovery. In addition, novel medical devices including (i) AI/ML based medical devices with software development, Software as Medical Device (SaMD) and Software in Medical Device (SiMD); (ii) Medical diagnostics and screening devices with genetic technology; (iii) Robotic medical devices for surgical procedures; (iv) Medical devices with telemedicine facilities; and (v) Any novel in vitro diagnostic medical device, including biomarkers, that enables precision medicine, are also eligible for financial assistance under the PRIP scheme. Further, National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs), under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals have introduced courses on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Blockchain Technology and provide training in AI-based tools for applications in drug discovery and pharmaceutical research, thereby building human resource capacity in these emerging areas.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) supports AI-based research for affordable and accessible healthcare in areas such as cancer, tuberculosis, pulmonary, cardiovascular, ophthalmological and neurological diseases, including drug development, predictive models, diagnostics and assistive devices.

(b) and (c): The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has not adopted AI for regulatory approvals. Regulatory decisions relating to clinical trials continue to be based on established scientific and technical review, including scrutiny by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) which are adequate to address concerns of safety, efficacy and regulatory accountability.

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