

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2488
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/08/2018**

NATIONAL BIO-PHARMA MISSION

2488. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the World Bank for development of bio-pharma under National Bio Pharma Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken for providing financial assistance to carry out research and development in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES;
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a to c) Yes Sir, the Government has entered into Legal Agreements with World Bank for implementation of the activities under National Biopharma Mission on April 24, 2018. The loan agreement was executed between Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on behalf of World Bank. The project agreement was signed by the implementing agency - Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a PSU of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with IBRD.

This National Bio-Pharma Mission Programme has been approved by the Cabinet in May 2017 at a total cost of US\$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank loan.

For financial assistance, the BIRAC will solicit proposals through open Request for Applications (RFAs) for development of affordable products under this Mission. The first set of RFAs were issued in December, 2017 soliciting proposals from academia and industry focusing on development of vaccines, biosimilars, medical devices, diagnostics and infrastructure for affordable products.
