

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.85  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE,2019**

**R&D OF MEDICINE**

**85. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to improve Research and Development (R&D) in medicine and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether India needs to increase the pace of research in regenerative medicine to come up to the global level, especially in the area of clinical trials and regulatory requirements and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any long term plans has been prepared by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (e) the extent to which the Government has achieved the target and goals so far in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): The Department of Biotechnology, (DBT) through ‘Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)’ a public-sector undertaking of the DBT, is supporting, strengthening and empowering the Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

The Department of Biotechnology has also initiated the Mission programme titled Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals – “Innovate in India (i3) Empowering biotech entrepreneurs & accelerating inclusive innovation.

Also, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been promoting research activities in stem cell research and Regenerative Medicine through its adhoc research projects and fellowships. It has also initiated some of the task force activities and established centre for excellence and core facilities for stem cell research.

(b): The Department of Biotechnology has identified Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine as one of the thrust areas to increase the pace of research in regenerative medicine and supporting a number of projects in this area for both basic and translational research. The “National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research-2017” has been jointly formulated by Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Council of Medical Research to lay down standards for stem cell research and ensure that research with human stem cells is conducted in a responsible and ethically sensitive manner in the country.

(c): The Department of Biotechnology has formulated the ‘National Biotechnology Development Strategy’ to promote and facilitate all aspects of biotechnology across the country.

The Bio-Pharma Mission programme launched by the Department also aims to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products such as vaccines and biotherapeutics for combating public health concerns.

(d): The Medical Biotechnology programme is supported under the Research & Development scheme of the Department of Biotechnology with approximately Rs 100-125 crores annual budget with allocation of approx. Rs 130 crores for the current FY 2019-20. The National Biopharma Mission approved by the Cabinet at a total cost of US\$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank loan is being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) - a Public Sector Undertaking of DBT.

(e): Some of the significant outcomes of DBT’s support under Medical Biotechnology programme include: a) Development of Rapid diagnostic Kit for Celiac disease in humans and a highly sensitive and specific Rapid 1-Day Diagnostic Test for Dengue; b) Development of various innovative technologies and devices for day-to-day use by patients.