

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1457
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th SEPTEMBER, 2020

Research and Development of New Drugs

1457. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any programme or policy for research and development of new drugs/vaccines for treatment of newly emerging diseases across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Government has constituted any inter-department related Committee for pharmaceuticals research and development and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken for the benefit of common people of the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)**

(a) & (b): The Department has set up seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) at Mohali (Punjab), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Hyderabad (Telangana), Guwahati (Assam), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to nurture and promote quality and excellence in pharmaceutical education and research in India. These are institutes of national importance, which besides imparting master's and doctorate education, conduct high end research in various specializations of pharmaceuticals.

Further, the Department of Biotechnology is implementing the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) through Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). This PAN-India program is focused on making India a hub for development of novel, affordable and effective vaccines, biotherapeutics and medical devices for combating public health concerns. The Department of Biotechnology is also supporting the implementation of the Ind-CEPI Mission entitled "Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)" which aim to support vaccine development for diseases of epidemic potential in India. The Mission was approved for implementation in March, 2019 for a period of five years and is part of a broader Initiative called the Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission - Undertaking Nationally Relevant Technology Innovation (UNaTI).

(c) & (d) The Department has set up an Inter- Departmental Committee (IDC) in January, 2019 to periodically review and coordinate research work undertaken by various governmental organization under different Central Ministries/ Departments in a collaborative, synchronized and synergized way for optimum utilization of funds and to ensure no overlapping and duplication of efforts and resources occur. Further, the Department has recently set up a High level inter-departmental Committee including eminent industry leaders/ experts to frame a Policy on R&D and Innovation including Academia-industry linkage in Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices.

Further, the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) under the Department of Biotechnology is supporting the development of candidate vaccines for Cholera, Influenza, Dengue, Chikungunya, Pneumococcal disease and COVID-19, for establishing shared facilities for vaccine development, funding of Technology Transfer Offices, supporting the development of TRC for chikungunya and dengue and the establishment of Clinical Trial Networks, Field sites for conducting epidemiology studies and preparing for conduct of population-based vaccine trials, Clinical trial consortium of hospitals across the country for specialities of Oncology, Rheumatology, Ophthalmology and Diabetology, Trainings and workshops are organised for enhancing skill development and capacity building activities.
