GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4073
TO BE ASNWERED ON 19.03.2021

India-UK Cancer Research Initiative

4073: DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

a) whether cancer is a global epidemic that requires radically new approaches through inter-disciplinary and multi-national efforts;
b) whether the Government has signed a MoU as part of India-UK Cancer Research Initiative to promote partnership between Department of Biotechnology and Cancer Research UK for initiating research with a view to explore Affordable Approaches to Cancer;
c) if so, the details thereof;
d) whether the India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will provide a catalyzing platform for scientists and researchers in UK and India to co-create solutions for affordable cancer care that improves cancer outcomes around the globe;
e) if so, whether India-UK Cancer Research Initiative provides an opportunity to tackle the global epidemic of cancer by opening new pathways for International knowledge exchange and research base;
f) if so, the details thereof; and
g) the investment by both the countries in this initiative?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a Cancer Research Initiative, "Affordable Approaches to Cancer" on 14th November 2018 during the Inaugural Researcher's Summit held from 14th - 16th November 2018 in New Delhi. The broad aim of the research initiative is to support high quality research to deliver innovative and translatable outputs that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in both the countries, and which also have the potential to have major global impact.

(d), (e) & (f) Yes, Sir. Under the initiative, the core challenges have been identified and seven seed grants have been awarded. The seven seed grants awarded are to work on affordable approaches to improve early diagnosis of symptomatic cancers; affordable screening tools to improve early detection of cancer; risk factors to better understand regional variations in incidence, enabling new approaches to cancer prevention; computational approaches that can reduce the cost of cancer care delivery; affordability of effective cancer treatments; affordable

screening tools to improve early detection of cancer; and affordability of effective cancer treatments.

The institutions involved from the Indian side include - Cachar Cancer Hospital &Research Centre; RTI International; Translational Health Science Technology Institute; Tata Memorial Hospital; All India Institute for Medical Sciences; Cochin Cancer Research Centre; Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute.

(g) The investment thus far by both the countries as matching grant for supporting 7 seed grants is ₹ 1.86 Cr.