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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2470

TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2016

RARE GENETIC DISEASES

2470. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that one in every 20 Indians suffers from one of the 7000 diseases classified as 'rare diseases' and rare genetic disease like Progeria that causes premature aging or lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease and Gaucher's disease; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check these rare diseases?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): Prevalence rate in India for rare genetic diseases is not clearly available. But, few of the medical literatures give an incidence of 1:428 million population for Progeria and 1: 40000 for Gaucher's and Pompe disease. The Department of Health Research (DHR) is supporting research on lysosomal storage disorders and other genetic diseases which are a type of rare disorders. Research in these diseases is limited due to lesser availability of the number of patients. But research is widely initiated in other diseases like Lysosomal Storage diseases, Sickle Cell anaemia, Thalassemia, Haemophilia, etc.