

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6346
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
DRUGS FROM SEA
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether certain lead compounds for anti-diabetic and anti-cholesterol have been identified under `Drugs from Sea` programme;
- (b) if so, details thereof along with outcome of the clinical trials conducted for the drugs; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to continue exploratory activities for identification of bio-active compounds having properties of anti-fungal, anti-cancer, spermicidal, etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes Sir;

(b) About 500 marine organisms, representing Porifera, Coelenterata, Echinodermata and mollusca, Chlorophyta, Rhodophyta, Cyanophyte and some mangroves were collected. Organisms possessing anti-diabetic and anti-cholesterol have been identified. The regulatory pharmacology and toxicity of the anti-diabetic lead and toxicity test of anti-cholesterol molecule including clinical trials are being conducted during the current X Plan period.

(c) Exploratory activities are being continued in the current X Five Year Plan for identification of more organisms, which show bio-active potentials of anti-fungal and anti-cancer, spermicidal, etc.