

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4950
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
RESEARCH ON MEDICINES FOR INCURABLE DISEASES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is laying emphasis on research on medicines used for treatment of incurable diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): According to the information made available by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), funds have been provided to pharmaceutical R&D through a Technology Development Board and pharmaceutical development fund through Science & Technology Department. Enhanced the funds are also made available to the industry and industry linked academia. Infectious diseases and excessive population growth continue to constitute the major priorities of medical research. In recent years, with increasing life span the burden of non-communicable diseases has increased significantly. Hence research has been intensified progressively on cardiovascular diseases, metabolic and neurological disorders, liver diseases, cancer etc. The ICMR has also consolidated its research on important communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, filariasis and AIDS. Research on traditional medicines/herbal remedies has been revived with a disease oriented approach. Council has set up a sub-committee of experts, which examines the data generated from various institutions and companies on the investigational new drugs. So far 15 such applications have been evaluated for phase 1 clinical trials for the treatment of various diseases including new drugs for migrane, diabetes, benign prostatic hyperplasia etc. The ICMR has also been helping Drug Controller General (India) (DCGI) for evaluation of proposals for permission and marketing of various drugs through its Toxicology Review Panel. Research has been funded for so many years in the area of pharmacology and many new molecules have been generated for such diseases. Efforts are on developing drugs from synthetic herbal and biotechnology modes and taking them through preclinical and clinical trials to enable these to reach the market at the earliest to benefit the suffering humanity. With the concerted efforts of experts and investigators, the national facilities under the programmes of pharmacology and traditional medicine have been set up within last 5 years for testing the preclinical toxicity, safety and efficacy of the new products.

Apart from the above traditional medicine programme has also been developed by the Council with the help of experts. Significant achievement in this regard has been made which include development of Ksharsootra (medicated thread for treatment of anal fistula) and evaluation of Vijayasar for validating antidiabetic activity.