

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6869  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005  
DISCOVERY OF NEW GENES  
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

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

- (a) whether an Indo-US team working on X-chromosome has discovered dozens of new genes promising research on mental retardation and other disorder;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to utilize the new discovery in Government hospitals and elsewhere in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): As per report published in Nature Genetics 2005, April Vol.37(4), an Indo-US team of St.Johns Hopkin`s University and Indian Institute of Bioinformatics, Bangalore by analyzing the genes in X Chromosome identified many novel genes in X Chromosome identified many novel genes linked to mental retardation and other disorders. The team, while comparing the X-chromosome genetic make up in humans, monkeys and mice, found that similarities in some conserved areas. Some of the newly identified genes which are conserved are found to sit on regions long associated to X-linked mental retardation syndrome. Although, this study is pioneering and novel, its immediate clinical application in screening for mental retardation in human beings needs to be evaluated.