

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4383  
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006  
RESEARCH IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY  
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**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) the potential available for research in pharmaceutical industry for developing new drugs;
- (b) the opportunities present for Indian companies to enter into research contracts with foreign big pharma companies for research and development of new drugs at low cost;
- (c) whether the Government proposes a policy to encourage Indian pharma companies to take advantage of high costs involved in pharmaceutical research abroad and allowed to tie up with pharma companies of the world interested to outsource research in development of new drugs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

- (a) The Indian pharmaceutical industry has the potential for conducting research for development of new drugs. There are over 175 drug manufacturing pharma companies having their in-house research & development centers recognized by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR). Out of these, over 15 companies are carrying out research & development in new drugs. A number of Indian companies have built up impressive R&D infrastructure and expertise in chemical research, pharmaceutical research, fermentation research as well as new drug discovery research (NDDR) and research in novel drug delivery systems. The therapeutic areas in which these companies have developed lead molecules are malaria, urology, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular indications, cancer, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, inflammation & pain, staphylococcal infections, respiratory infections, skin infections, anti-migraine, anti-TB, anti-psoriasis and cerebro-vascular.
- (b) The opportunities for Indian companies to enter into research contracts with foreign big pharma companies for research and development of new drugs at low cost are available in supply of specialty chemicals used for development of new drug molecules/intermediates, chemical research, novel drug delivery systems research and clinical research.
- (c)&(d) The Government does not have a specific policy to encourage Indian pharma companies to tie up with pharma companies of the world, interested to outsource research in development of new drugs. However, the Government has provided a number of fiscal incentives and other support measures for promoting R&D in industry and setting up of in-house research and development centres by industry. Some of the Indian pharma companies having DSIR recognized in-house R&D centres are having tie ups with pharma companies of the world for taking up contract research assignments.