

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2616
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
DIABETES AND CANCER MEDICINE
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scientists have developed a diabetes-cancer medicine from mangrove plant found in Andaman and Nicobar coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government provides assistance for such research work; and
- (d) if so, the details of funds so far allocated and actually spent on developing the said medicine?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a & b) Yes, Sir. The Scientists involved in harnessing the bio-active compounds of marine organisms (flora and fauna) collected from Indian waters including Andaman and Nicobar coast, are exploring the possibilities of developing drugs for various diseases. In this process, potential anti-diabetics from mangrove plant have been found in Andaman and Nicobar coasts. One compound (CDR-134-D123) has reached the product development stage. The Phase-I Clinical Trial of this compound involves Single-dose and Multi-dose studies. The Single-dose of Phase -I Clinical trial, through oral route has been completed in 31 volunteers successfully. All the volunteers have tolerated the drug very well and no side effect has been observed. The commencement of Multi-dose trial of this compound is in progress. In addition, two more compounds [

(i) CDR-134-F194 and

(ii) CDR-267-F018] having dual properties of anti-hyperglycemic and anti-hyperlipidemic are in advanced stages of drug development. Their efficacy and safety in animals (Rodents and monkeys) have been evaluated and filing of the Investigational New Drugs (TND) to seek the permission of Drugs Controller General of India so as to commence Clinical Trial is in progress. Recently, the Ministry initiated action for expansion of the programme activities and inducted Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Mumbai one of the new participating Centres for developing anti-cancer drugs from marine organisms.

(c) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences provides financial assistance to various research organizations to carryout studies in developing therapeutic principles/ drugs from the marine organisms from Indian waters under `Development of potential drugs from the sea` programme.

(d) At present the Ministry has been implementing this programme under the leadership of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow with active participation of 7 reputed laboratories including Universities, namely,

(i) Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar;

(ii) National Institute of Oceanography, Goa;

(iii) National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai,

(iv) Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad;

(v) Andhra University, Visakhapatnam;

(vi) Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar and

(vii) Calcutta University, Kolkata. Since 1996-97, the Ministry has spent a sum of Rs.29.70 crore against an allocation of Rs.30.90 crore through the participating organizations towards the drugs for sea programme.