

(a) whether during 1986 the apex decision making Government body of Indian Council of Medical Research had approved recruitment and assessment scheme for both the scientific and technical staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether only scientific staff are being given the above chance meant for selection and promotion;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have identified the officials responsible for this discrimination; and

(f) the steps taken to implement the decision of Governing Body of ICMR ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (f). The Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, on the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee appointed by it, approved in 1988 an Integrated Recruitment and Assessment Scheme for the technical and scientific staff of the Council on the lines existing in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. While a five yearly assessment scheme for the scientific officials was implemented with effect from 1st January, 1986, similar scheme for the technical staff could not be accepted due to the administrative and financial reasons. However, it has now been decided to consider a revised scheme modelled after the scheme approved for the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Medicinal Plants

*7. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether any studies have been conducted on various plant materials used in Indian traditional medicines with a view to identify immunomodulatory compounds having prophylactic or therapeutic effects;

(b) if so, the result thereof .

(c) whether the various Ayurvedic plant-substances which stimulate the immune system against diseases have been integrated in the modern system of medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b). Scientific studies have been conducted on some plant materials used in the Indian traditional medicine in the area of immunology. Studies on some plant materials show that possibilities of advance exist in the prevention and treatment of disorders involving the immune system like rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, bronchial asthma etc.

(c) and (d). Research is still in progress and clearance for integrating any new drug into the modern medicine system could

be done only after their efficacy is established through clinical trials.

Prevention of Adulteration

*8. SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI RATILAL VARMA :

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

(a) whether there is need to amend the existing Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 after the entry of multinational companies in the field of food processing industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted any task force to review the present status in this regard;

(c) the main finding of the task force; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to bring amendments to this act ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) The need to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 had been raised by various Associations including the Food Processing industry.

(b) and (c). A Task Force comprising eminent jurists, legal and technical experts was set up and coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry. The Task Force reviewed the framework of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act & Rules thereunder in the context of present day needs. The main recommendations relate to the infrastructure required to implement the food laws, adequacy of equipment in the laboratories, personnel employed for analysis, licensing of vendors, development of sound industrial practices and strengthening of the P.F.A. division. Amendments to the existing laws have also been suggested.

(d) The amendments have to be examined in consultation with the State Governments for which the process has already commenced.

Malaria Control

*9. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay for Malaria Eradication and Control Programme under the current plan;

(b) the total expenditure under the programme during 1992-95;

(c) the total budget outlay for 1995-96 and the expenditure incurred upto 31st December, 1995;

(d) the major items of expenditure under the scheme for the current year;

(e) whether Malaria is staging a come back throughout the country ; and