

highly potential source of hydrocarbons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to harness the source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Certain areas of Bark Valley have been considered to be of good potential source of hydrocarbons. Oil has been discovered at Badarpur and Hiler fields; and gas at Adamtilla and Banaskandi fields. One block has been offered for exploration to private companies in the 5th Round of bidding.

In the Eighth Plan it is proposed to carry out 51,300 m. of exploratory drilling in Cachar (including part of Meghalaya)

Aids control

6398. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Test Plants for anti-AIDS properties" appearing in the Statesman dated January 10, 1993;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

(c) whether any of these seven plants is already known to stimulate the immune system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether China and Japan have already started clinical trials of their medical plants for anti-AIDS medicines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some Indian laboratories are investigating Indian medicinal plants for anti-AIDS activity.

(c) and (d) Anti-AIDS properties has been reported in a large number of plants belonging to the family of Cucurbitaceae. Some of them are commonly used vegetables such as Momordica Charantia (Kerals); Luffa acotanquala and Luffa cylindrica (Tori) and also Andrographis paniculate (Kalmegh).

(e) and (f) No information is available on the clinical trials on medicinal plants for AIDS in China and Japan.

[Translation]

Facilities To Handicapped

6399. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instances of misuse of the facilities being provided to the handicapped persons in the country have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the facilities meant for handicapped persons are made available only to them and are not misused?

(e) whether the World Bank have also provided