

(d) the action Government propose to take to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No such reports are available with the Government.

(d) The abortion of female foetuses following sex determination tests is a social problem. There is a need for social awareness in this regard. Government has taken steps to improve the status of women in the society; Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resources Development has been actively engaged in raising the status of women. Issues like female literacy, women's employment, raising mean age of marriage of girls, improvement in the health status of women etc. are some of the important thrusts being undertaken in different programmes of the Government. The Government of India constituted a Small Committee to go into the various aspects for regulating the use of sex determination tests. The Committee suggested a draft Bill which has been sent to the States/U.Ts.

Tribal Development and Development of Minor Forest Produce Schemes

748. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the beneficiary oriented scheme for Tribal Development and the scheme for development of Minor Forest Produce has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the forestry schemes for tribal development worked out by the Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh); and

(d) the reasons why any financial assistance has not been provided to the said University so far through the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Beneficiary oriented scheme for tribal development is in formulation stage. Consultation with State Governments and various agencies involved is in progress will be implemented as soon as it is finalised.

The scheme for development of Minor forest produce including cultivation of medicinal plants has been finalised. Proposals received from various State Governments are being processed for sanction.

(c) The views of Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh) have been considered while formulation the above schemes.

(d) Financial assistance has not been provided to the said University as the proposal received was incomplete. The University has been requested to submit detailed proposals.

Foreign Assistance to Combat Water Borne and Other Diseases

749. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into agreement with foreign countries independently or through the aegies of UNICEF, for foreign assistance financial and medical, to combat the water borne and other diseases in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements entered into and under negotiation;

(c) whether any such project is proposed to be implemented in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (d). Government of India has not entered into any Agreement with any foreign country or with UNICEF for financial and medical assistance specifically to combat the water borne and other diseases in rural areas. However, one project namely, Integrated Rural Water Supply, Health Education, Environmental Sanitation and Guinea worm control project with assistance of Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through UNICEF is being implemented in Durgapur and Banskara Districts of Rajasthan which has recently been extended to Udaipur District also. Government of India has also entered into agreements with various foreign countries e.g. U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia etc., in the field of Medical and Public Health. Some international aid agencies like SIDA, DANIDA, ODA, etc., are giving assistance for eradication of various diseases like leprosy, blindness, TB, Malaria etc.,

As regard UNICEF it is committed to provide assistance to India in the field of Water Supply and Sanitation with a view to reducing water borne and other related diseases. Total UNICEF commitment in this sector is US\$ 81 million for a period of 5 years (1985-89). Major activities supported by UNICEF in this sector include water well drilling, Handpump Development and Maintenance, Gravity Feed Piped Water Systems. Environmental Sanitation and Health Education. UNICEF assistance is extended to almost all of the States in the country including Orissa.

Another continuing project assisted by Overseas Development Agency (UK) will cover additional 5 districts of Orissa to provide inputs to strengthen the delivery of Primary Health Care of rural population under Phase II of the Project approved recently.

Funds from Foreign Countries for Urban Development

750. SHRIBHADRESWARTANTI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds received from foreign countries for urban development ; and

(b) the details of scheme likely to be introduced in the current financial year for urban development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Lung Cancer Cases Due to Smoking Cigarettes

751. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SOMNATH RATH:

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

(a) whether Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Ex-Director General of World Health Organisation, has stated that there would be two million new lung cancer cases every year in developing countries due to cigarette smoking;

(b) whether Government have procured the data of lung cancer cases every year, caused by Cigarette smoking in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban smoking in Government offices and public premises and in children upto the age of 18 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.