

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There is no scientific basis to believe that artificial sweeteners are unsafe or inappropriate for diabetics at the doses consumed. Some of these artificial sweeteners like saccharin and aspartame have undergone extensive Toxicological testing before being cleared. As such, their usage is widespread both in West and in other Countries.

(b) The question does not arise.

#### Fund for Research projects by Universities

1026. SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are funding research activities only to light research associations situated in India;

(b) whether some Universities are also doing research for the development of Indian textile industry;

(c) whether a project proposal was submitted by one of the Universities situated in South India to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production of cotton textiles produced by small scale sector so as to boost the export;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to fund the projects floated by the Universities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). At present there is no scheme to fund such projects by this Ministry.

#### R & D Work for remedies in ISM to Control Malaria

1027. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether resistance to chloroquine has been noticed in certain areas in cases of malaria and if so, the alternative arrangements made; and

(b) whether any R & D work is going on to find out the remedies in Indian systems of medicine and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes. In certain parts of the country, *P. falciparum* malaria parasite has been found to be resistant to chloroquine. In such cases alternative drugs amodioquine, sulphadixine, premithamine and Primaquine are being used.

(b) Yes. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha in collaboration with Chief Medical Officer, Gurgaon has brought out an anti-malarial drug *Ayush-64*. Field studies of the drug indicated that (i) the drug has got definite effect on the *P. Vivax* as schinoptocidal drug. (ii) only in 65-70% of cases, there is clearance of parasitemia within 7 days. (iii) The drug is to be administered 3 times a day for five days. (iv) The period of drug administration is too long to ensure complete course of medicine with proper dosage in large scale programme.

The claims of the Council are related to the usefulness of *Ayush-64* in *Plasmodium Vivax* programme.

The Council has obtained the patent for this drug and their commercial exploitation was intrusted to National Research Development Corporation. Some pharmacies have purchased the patent rights for commercial sale and they are marketing this drug under the name of *Ayush-64* or any other name.