

years, specifically funds have been earmarked for modernisation of equipment and facilities from the year 1995-96. Since then, an amount of Rs.66 crore has been spent on modernisation from the budgetary grant to CSIR. A total allocation of Rs.250 crore has been made by the Govt. for modernisation and upgradation of equipment in the CSIR laboratories over the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) In addition to the Government grant to CSIR for modernisation, the laboratories are endeavouring to supplement the resources for modernisation through sponsored, collaborative and grant-in-aid R&D programmes.

#### **Field Trials of Transgenic Hybrid Cotton Seeds**

2466. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted some multinational companies to conduct field trials of transgenic hybrid cotton seeds in five States;

(b) if so, the details of the companies and names of States where these companies have been permitted;

(c) whether the concerned States had sought permission before finalising any agreement in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. An Indian Co. M s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd. (MAHYCO), Mumbai, in which a foreign company MONSANTO has 26% equity, was permitted by the Government to conduct field trial in open environment initially at 5 locations in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana, and subsequently at 40 locations in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The State Governments have been kept informed by the Central Government about the field trials.

#### **Menaka Panel**

2467. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Menaka Panel norms may impeded bio-medical research;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein;

(c) the details of action taken proposed to be taken to ensure that bio-medical research is not impeded; and

(d) the present status regarding implementation of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The draft of Breeding and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervi-

sion) Rules, 1998 formulated by the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals is being reconsidered as per the suggestions of scientists and others so that they would not impede bio-medical research. The rules are only intended to establish standards for the care and use of animals in scientific research. A Sub-Committee consisting of scientists and representatives of Animal Welfare Organisations has been constituted to work on the draft rules.

#### **Vaccine Application Programme**

2468. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are receiving any foreign aid for Vaccine Application Programme (V.A.P.);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been granted for the trial use of any new vaccine under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme the US side has agreed to provide grants for new projects. So far, no foreign aid has been received under the programme during Phase-III which has just commenced.

(c) to (e) No field trials has been initiated under the programme. The candidate vaccine developed by Indian and US scientists jointly under this programme would undergo clinical trials both in US and India, simultaneously. Two candidate rotaviral vaccines have jointly been developed. The toxicological and Phase-I clinical trials of same have been conducted in the US. The trials in our country would be conducted by the Indian scientists with the approval of the Drug's Controller of India.

[Translation]

#### **Permanent Appointment in CSIR**

2469. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scientists, technical assistants and administrative employees for sponsored projects in the Institutes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have been appointed on permanent basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this sort of appointment is against the laws of the CSIR; and

(d) if so, the action to be taken against those found responsible for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.