

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4280

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001

SYNTHETIC GENE

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): whether the scientists fighting malaria are preparing the ground for one of the most audacious attempts to wipe out disease, genetically modifying an entire animal species in the wild;

(b) if so, the scientists have been able to spread a synthetic gene throughout the populations of dangerous mosquitoes, making it impossible for them to pass malaria on to human; and (

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the end of malaria in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): Scientists from Imperial College, London and European Molecular Biology Institute at Heidelberg, Germany are reported to have developed genetic transformation system for the mosquito (*Anopheles stephensi*) causing malaria. The study is at experimental stage only.

Steps taken for control of malaria in the country include:-

- i) Early case detection and prompt treatment.
- ii) Selective Vector Control
- iii) Promotion of personal protection methods.
- iv) Early detection and containment of epidemics.
- v) Information, Education and Communication towards personal prevention and Community participation.
- vi) Institutional and Management capacity Building, Trained Manpower Development and efficient management Information system (MIS).
- vii) Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive and control measures.