

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4516
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
MEDICAL PROJECTS WITH US
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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 `US flays India for delay in clearing medical Projects` appearing in The Hindu dated November 19, 2002;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the USA have urged upon the Government to expedite the clearance of the large number of pending medical projects;
- (c) whether USA Government have also sought changes in the existing procedures being followed by the Government which is causing delays in the clearance of projects involving Indian Scientists already cleared by the USA Government;
- (d) whether USA also intend to provide more funds for joint research with India because the Indian Science achieved significant progress in health research; and
- (e) if so, the number of projects pending clearance and the reasons for delay?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to(e): The medical Research proposals involving foreign assistance/collaboration after peer review are placed before the Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC) which meets periodically, for clearance. At present there are 15 project proposals involving India and USA which are under peer review at ICMR level, of which, 11 proposals have been submitted to ICMR in the last 4-5 months whereas 4 proposals need certain clarification/modification/revision.