

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2827

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007

AGREEMENT FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNOLOGIES

Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether India and USA have signed an agreement to collaborate on medical research for developing low-cost diagnostic and therapeutic technologies to treat diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of the said agreement; and
- (d) the extent which it will be helpful for both the countries?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) The Govt. of India has signed a Joint Statement with USA on June 7, 2005. The terms of reference inter-alia include collaboration in capacity building in the operation of high containment laboratories and safe handling of high hazard viruses and bacteria, developing and refining repositories and strengthening capacity to identify new pathogens. The implementation plans on cooperation between the US, Deptt. of Health and Human Services and the ICMR, signed on 16th October, 2007 provide for cooperation between the two countries on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and diseases surveillance. These plans envisages cooperation in the fields of basic and applied research, planning and design of infectious disease laboratory facilities, collaboration on avian influenza research, training exchanges, and collaboration research between bio-medical research organization in India and the United States.

(d) The partnership between both the countries will increase joint activities in scientific discovery, research innovation and reinforce existing research cooperation, scientific training and capacity development efforts which will be helpful in investigations/studies related to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.