GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3478
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012
RESEARCH ON VECTOR BORNE DISEASES
Kumar Shri P.;Tanwar Shri Ashok

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

(a) whether the Government is supporting a number of research projects relating to development of vaccines and affordable drugs for control of vector-borne diseases including Malaria and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and spent for the purpose during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the present status and outcome of such research projects;

(d) whether the Government has entered into cooperation with certain countries including Australia and signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other measures taken/proposed by the Government to encourage research on vector-borne diseases in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) to (c): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) supports research on vector borne diseases (VBDs) through its extramural and intramural programmes. The various Institutes of ICMR which have been involved in research on vector borne diseases are National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), Delhi, Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), Puducherry, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute (RMRI), Patna, Centre for Research in Madical Entomology (CRME), Madurai, Regional Medical Research Centres (RMRC) at Bhubaneshwar, Dibrugarh, Jabalpur, Portblair and Jodhpur and Nationl Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune which has been designated as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Arbovirus and Haemorrhagic Fever Reference and Research and Rapid Diagnosis of Viral Diseases.

There is no separate Budget earmarked for research projects relating to development of vaccines and affordable drugs for control of vector borne diseases.

Some of the vaccines and drugs trials that have been conducted by ICMR have benefited the common masses. These include, inter-alia the following:

1. Development of an inactivated tissue culture vaccine against Indian strain of Japanese encephalitis virus.

2. Introduction of Artemisinin Based Combination Therapy (ACTs) in National Drug Policy for Malaria.

3. Evaluation of treatment practices to know the extent of irrational use of anti-malarials which lead to phasing out of artemisinin monotherapy from the country.

4. Clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of anti Kala-azar drugs.

5. Assessment of operational feasibility and impact of co-administration of DEC and albendazole and for DEC alone (2000-2001).

(d) & (e): No. ICMR has formulated a Vector Science Forum to support research on VBDs with the aim to provide a platform where vector biologists, entomologists, programme people, researchers/institutes working on vectors/vector -borne diseases can interact and share information on public health priorities on vector research. The Forum identifies gap areas and prioritizes and needs in vector research of the programme/policies for the control of vector-borne diseases in the country and identifies the thrust areas to address the challenges.