

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:283

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH .

Rao Shri Konakalla Narayana;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) the major research projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether functioning of ICMR and progress of various health research projects taken thereby have adversely affected due to shortage/vacant posts of scientists and experts therein;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government to augment capacity strengthening of ICMR and streamline its functioning?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 283 FOR 30TH AUGUST, 2013

(a) ICMR has been actively engaged in promoting Health Research, outbreak/epidemic investigations and addressing the consequential health issues. The Council has given special attention to health issues of Tribal and marginalized communities with special focus to remote inaccessible areas including North Eastern States.

During the last 3 years and current year, ICMR has funded around 2502 new extramural and intramural projects. Major Research Projects undertaken by ICMR during the last 3 years and current year are in the area of diagnosis, prevention and management of communicable diseases. Non-communicable diseases, Basic medical services including Genetics; and health systems Socio-behaved research; Reproductive and Child health and Nutrition.

Department of Health Research has launched three schemes during 2013-14 for encouraging health research and setting up of infrastructure for laboratories /diagnostic facilities.

(b)&(c) Vacant posts are filled up on continuous basis and this has not adversely affected the on-going research projects of ICMR or the progress thereof. However, major expansion in terms of establishing new programmes, infrastructure/centres in new areas has been delayed due to budgetary constraints and restriction on creation of new posts.

(d) Following measures have been taken to augment capacity and infrastructure improvement in ICMR:

(i) Budgetary support for its schemes and programmes;

(ii) Enhance capacity building and skill of its scientists through training and fellowships in India and abroad and through participation in international workshops/seminars

(iii) Strengthening the functioning of ICMR by pursuing the creation of additional posts and adequate budgetary allocations.