

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 has lapsed w.e.f. 31.8.97. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1999 has been introduced in the current Session of Parliament. This Bill incorporates certain important provisions of the earlier Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981.

Testing of New Drug *Medicine*

1938. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists at Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow have tested a new drug for the treatment of Malaria;

(b) if so, whether the new drug has been put to use to eradicate Malaria; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow in collaboration with Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Lucknow have developed and tested a new drug for the treatment of chloroquine resistant Plasmodium falciparum malaria. The drug named Arteether is a semi-synthetic derivative of the active constituent artemisinin in which is obtained from the plant *Artemisia annua*. The drug has been granted marketing permission for use in severe malaria including cerebral malaria and as a second line in Chloroquine resistant malaria cases only for supply to hospitals and is prohibited for sale in retail outlets.

(c) Post-marketing surveillance data of 300 patients received from the clinicians from 6 states has shown that the drug is safe and effective. The post-marketing surveillance is continuing.

[Translation]

Navodaya Vidyalyayas

1939. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Government for construction of a building for Navodaya Vidyalyayas;

(b) the number of Navodaya Vidyalyayas are running without buildings in M.P.; and

(c) the steps taken for construction of buildings for such Vidyalyayas in the State particularly in Mahasamund?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) construction work of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalyayas buildings are being assigned to various Construction Agencies of State Government/Central Government/Government Undertakings in different phases.

(b) and (c) Nine Vidyalyayas are running without their own buildings in the State. Construction is in progress in these schools except in Chhindwara where land has not yet been made available. Samiti has not sanctioned any Vidyalyaya for Mahasamund. Requisite funds have been released to the concerned construction agencies for the early completion of the Vidyalyaya buildings.

[English]

women
96-97

ADARNA Scheme in AP

1940. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government to extend assistance for the ADARNA Scheme and other programmes in the State which are meant for upliftment of women students and unemployed youth belonging to the backward community;

(b) if so, the total demand made by the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the demand; and

(d) if so, the total amount being sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh in making the ADARNA Scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No Sir. However a proposal

has been received in the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for financing schemes under Artisans Assistance Project. The National Corporation has requested the A.P. Backward Classes Corporation to submit schemes as per the guidelines and keeping in view the allocation of funds during the current financial year.

Benefits to Retired Government Servant

1941. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the pecuniary and non-pecuniary benefits provided to retired Government servant;

(b) the steps taken to ameliorate conditions for old people;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase in the income tax exemption limit in view of the present price hike;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to provide assistance to the senior citizens for their medical treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Expansion of Mumbai Metropolitan

1942. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the jurisdiction of Mumbai Metropolitan city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have allocated funds for the development of surrounding area of Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the name of the areas identified therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities, a central assistance of Rs. 102.48 crore has been released from 1993-94 till date to Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority for infrastructure development in Mumbai Urban Agglomeration area. The areas of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) and Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) are covered under the Mumbai Mega City Programme.

[English]

Task force on Science and Technology

1943. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Inter-Ministerial "Task Force on Science and Technology in Independent India" has recommended allocation of two percent of GNP for Science and Technology during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) An Inter-Ministerial Sub Group on Policy and Approach for the S&T sector for the 9th Five Year Plan recommended allocation of 2% of GNP for Science & Technology in the Ninth Plan period.

(b) According to the latest available statistics, the expenditure on S&T in India has hovered around one percent of GNP. This statistics does not include the expenditure incurred by the entities including business houses and companies which have not applied for recognition by the Ministry of Science & Technology. According to an estimate, if the contribution by such entities, business houses and companies are included, India's R&D expenditure as percentage of GNP would be around 2%. The expenditure made by Central