

Experiments on Genetic Control of Mosquitoes at Sonapat, Haryana

*148. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation and the Indian Council of Medical Research Departments are making experiments of genetic control of mosquitoes at Sonapat, Haryana; and

(b) if so, whether these experiments proved successful and whether the benefits of this research would be applied to the rest of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Ecological studies of a particular variety of mosquito have been taken up under the WHO-ICMR project of Genetic Control of Mosquitoes. The stage of releasing genetically manipulated mosquitoes at Sonapat has not yet been reached.

(b) The project of Genetic Control of Mosquitoes has been critically reviewed by a group of eminent Indian experts. They have unanimously held that the Project is important from the point of view of developing additional strategies for containment of mosquito-borne diseases, and should be continued with certain additional safeguards. It is intended to introduce these safeguards before field releases are undertaken. Government are also taking adequate steps to ensure that the project operates under the direct control of the ICMR. The benefits of this research, when available, will be applied wherever feasible.

A detailed note regarding the WHO-ICMR Project on Genetic Control of Mosquitoes is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8530/74].

Ban on Non-Whites in U.K.

*149. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has registered dismay over a British Court's ruling that that country's 4,000 private clubs can ban non-Whites;

(b) if so, whether there are indications from the Foreign Office that the Labour Government have decided to change the law on the issue; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) We took up with the British Government the judgment of the House of Lords by which the Working Men's clubs in Britain could prevent non-Whites from using such clubs.

(b) and (c). The British Prime Minister said in a recent public statement that the legislation on race relations needed to be reviewed and that the Home Secretary had the matter urgently in hand.

U.N. Resolution for release of Political Prisoners of Chile

*150. SHRI D. K. PANDA:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India abstained in U.N. when the resolution for the release of Political Prisoners of Chile was voted, if so, the reason therefor, and

(b) the main points of the Resolution?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) The original record of the voting on the resolution in the UN General Assembly, incorrectly shows India as having abstained