

[28 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

ing its look and feel, the Commercial Rate Card is being revised/restructured and steps have been taken to fully exploit the commercial potential of various programmes.

**Diversion of Funds meant for AIDS and TB Programmes**

\*530. SHRISHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large sum from the funds provided by G-8 countries for fighting AIDS and TB in India is proposed to be diverted towards purchase of a failed AIDS vaccine named Vexgen; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Reform linked Funds for Urban Infrastructure Development**

\*533. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that reform linked funds announced by Government to improve urban infrastructure have not been taken off so far;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) the reasons for their failure in implementation; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 2002-03, announced setting up of an Urban Reform Incentive Fund (URIF), with an initial allocation of Rs. 500 crores, which is proposed to be released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in Annual Plans of the States. Planning Commission worked out State-wise allocations on the basis of share of each State in the urban population and included the same as part of States' resources, while fixing the size of Annual Plan 2002-2003. The process of release is to be initiated by States individually, entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Central Government. This position has been brought to the no-