

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan of action with the assistance of World Health Organisation to wage a war against Malaria, T.B., AIDS and tobacco use;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the current year and the Ninth Five Year Plan, with State-wise break-up of allocation of funds made/proposed, scheme-wise, and the strategy worked out to deal with major diseases in India; and

(c) the present status of the national health schemes and progress achieved there under, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, WHO provides financial assistance on a two calendar year basis to support National Programmes. Assistance in the form of technical support is provided for undertaking surveys and operational research; procurement of critical equipments and drugs; training etc. During the current Biennium (1998-99), WHO is providing \$3,00,000 towards Malaria, T.B. and AIDS under the country budget and \$11,337,297 under the Extra-Country Budget for AIDS and T.B. WHO has also involved education against tobacco use among children and adults as one of its priority areas.

(c) The information is given in the enclose.

Annexure [See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 58]

Medicinal plants in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong

2226. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to carry out intensive research into the availability of herbal medicinal plants at Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong;

(b) whether Government would also consider to establish research laboratories at those areas; and

(c) whether Government would also consider to establish medicinal institutes at those areas to use the rich herbal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Government is very much aware of rich resources of medicinal plants in this region. Botanical Survey of India is already engaged in the survey and inventorisation of wild medicinally important herbs/plants of this area. Further, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy also intend to undertake survey of medicinal plants in these areas.

The State-Government of West Bengal has already established and medicinal plant research unit like Cincona Research Centre and Plantation in Mongow-Kalimpong. Asia's biggest plantation unit is established near Jaldhaka of Jalpaiguri District.

There are no proposals to establish further research laboratories or medicinal institutes under consideration at present.

Child Health facilities in Rural Areas

2227. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the measures taken to arrest population growth and improve child health facilities in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): Under the National Family Welfare Programme, the following schemes are being implemented with a view to arrest the population growth and improve child health facilities in the country:—