

ensure speedy eradication of the disease, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The World Health Assembly resolved in 1998 that all member countries should take effective steps to eradicate Polio from the earth by the year 2000 A.D. Although this resolution was endorsed by India, a special annual drive, the Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign, could only be launched from 1995-96. This programme is in addition to the on going universal immunisation programme. Under the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme all children below five years of age, are given polio drops on two specific days, separated by six weeks, every year, in the winter season. Complete eradication of polio requires a fullfledged surveillance system capable of detecting, following up and initiating containment measures in respect of every case of polio recurring anywhere in the country. The National Surveillance Unit was set up in this country with the assistance of World Health Organisation (WHO) and DANIDA in 1997. Successful of the Surveillance Unit has now resulted in detection of a large number of cases which otherwise would have gone unreported. As a result of the active surveillance throughout the country, 2272 confirmed polio cases were detected in 1997 and in 1998, upto November 1998, the number of cases reported is 2232. The World Health Organisation, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other experts have now advised that for speedy eradicating of polio, it would be necessary to take certain additional measures apart from the continuation of the Pulse Polio Programme and the routine immunisation programme. Arrangements are being made for taking effective action in accordance with the advice of the experts and to bring the incidence of polio to 'zero level' within the next few years.

#### **Financial assistance to Medical Colleges/ Hospitals in Kerala**

2224. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has requested the Centre to sanction financial assistance for the expansion and development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Rs. 1.50 lakhs have been sanctioned in 1997-98 for Medical College, Kozhikode, Kerala for development of Oncology Wing. The Government of Kerala submitted a proposal for establishing a Cancer Institute and Research Centre at Ernakulam involving a total outlay of Rs. 51.00 crores. This proposal was not agreed to as adequate facilities, as well as Cobalt Therapy Unit (with 50 beds) were already present in the Cancer Ward of District Hospital, Ernakulam. A proposal has also been received for upgrading the secondary system of health care in Kerala with external assistance. The Union Government is however at present giving priority to States with poor health indices and other parameters of backwardness.

Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariyaram, Kannur, Kerala has requested for financial assistance under the scheme, 'Development of Oncology Wings in Medical Colleges'. This request is required to be placed before the Standing Committee.

#### **Fighting Major-diseases with WHO Assistance**

2225. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(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 Homocopathy 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:—