

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to eradicate this disease totally from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since 2004, Government of India has launched a nation-wide campaign (including Tamil Nadu) for eradication of Elephantiasis (Filariasis). The campaign is an integral component of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) under the overarching umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The main strategy for elimination of lymphatic filariasis is to prevent the transmission of the infection through annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single dose of anti-filarial drugs (Diethyl carbamazine citrate (DEC) and Albendazole tablets) in the endemic population except pregnant women, children below 2 years of age and seriously ill persons. This was launched as a nation-wide annual campaign in 2004 in filarial endemic districts in 15 States and 5 Union Territories. For carrying out annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA), Government of India provides 100% assistance in cash and kind to the State Governments.

Inter-linking of rivers under MNREGS

4235. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to implement the plan for interlinking of major rivers Ganga, Mahanadi, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri by preparing a comprehensive plan of works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS); and

(b) whether this proposal would give the scheme a greater sense of purpose and coordination that it appears to lack in many States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Deaths during clinical trials of drugs

4236. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many deaths have been reported in the last three years during clinical trials being conducted in the country by foreign drug companies; and