

duty of the Council to formulate, on a national basis, research projects designed to provide practical and feasible solutions to such national problems. Basic research on fundamental aspects in the national institutes will be supported to a limited extent. Similarly a small proportion of research fellowships offered by the ICMR will be for basic studies related to health.

High Priority Areas :

1. A few major areas of national needs in medical research are Malaria, Leprosy, Cholera and 'Filariasis'.

2. In the field of research on fertility control emphasis will be on synthesis of oral contraceptives from Indian yams, determination of actual dose-schedule of oral contraceptives in under-nourished women and study on the problem of inter-relationship between nutrition and fertility.

3. Malnutrition continues to be a major factor affecting public health and attention will be paid to problems in this area.

4. There is need for researches on health delivery systems.

5. Schemes for improvement in drug testing and drug toxicology and investigation of bio-availability of drugs would be undertaken.

Formulation of projects :

In the formulation of these programmes, the major consideration has been that while basic research should not be neglected, the main thrust must be towards discovering practical and feasible solutions to the major health problems facing the country.

Research in Medical colleges :

The Council has initiated a number of steps for mobilising energising and enthusing the large body of medical colleges into joining the mainstream of medical research.

Collaboration with other scientific agencies :

To coordinate and make optimum use of resources joint advisory committees are proposed between ICMR and other Government agencies like ICAR, CSIR etc.]

Indian drug for the treatment of Cancer

319. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two doctors of the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Calcutta have discovered a drug to effectively treat cancer.

(b) if so, what are the details of the tests so far carried out and with what results;

(c) whether the doctors had been invited by the International Cancer Research Conference Committee, Florence, to whom the findings with regard to the tests carried out on the drug have been sent; and

(d) whether the said Committee is in agreement with the findings with regard to the effectiveness of drug?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b) Research and clinical trials on human patients with a preparation of selected salts under the name 'Sicafek' is being carried out in the Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre, Calcutta. The results of therapy is being evaluated and it is too early to claim discovery of a cancer cure.

(c) and (d) The doctors were requested to present their papers orally in the conference. It is not known whether the International Cancer Research Conference Committee is in agreement with the findings with regard to the effectiveness of drug.