

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the information available, no such software/technical instrument is available to detect sudden power fault in the rural areas of the country.

Adherent status on good laboratory practices certification

133. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has achieved full adherent status on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) certified by Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this status puts an end to evaluation of Indian labs by foreign inspectors and also Indian manufacturers getting their products tested abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to build a strong GLP base in the country by increasing the number of GLP certified testing facilities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India achieved full adherent status on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) certified by Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 3rd March 2011, after the Government accepted the invitation of OECD Council to become full adherent to OECD Council Act related to Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) in assessment of chemicals and to join that part of chemicals programme related to Mutual Acceptance of Data, with all of the rights and obligations of OECD member countries.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As a result of India achieving full adherent status on GLP, the results of non-clinical chemical safety testing done by Indian test facilities will be accepted in all OECD member

countries. Indian labs certified by the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority would not be required to be evaluated by foreign inspectors. The Indian manufacturers would be able to get their products tested in GLP certified Indian test facilities.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is in the process of selecting a Consultant to assess the existing GLP compliant facilities *vis-a-vis* requirement of Pharma industry, gaps if any, and drawing up schemes for establishment/upgrading the existing testing facilities so as to make them GLP Compliant Labs. The Department of Science and Technology has put in place enabling mechanisms to encourage the test facilities in both Government and Private sector to come up to the standards of GLP including sensitizing programmes, training programmes for test facilities, quality assurance personnel and study directors to inculcate a GLP environment in the country and encourage test facilities to apply for a GLP Certification from the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority, Government of India.

Promotion of scientific awareness

134. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proactive policies to ensure, support and promote scientific awareness among the Aanganwadi Workers, labourers and people of low income groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is no specific scheme for promoting scientific awareness among such specified target groups but through a series of initiatives by different ministries and Government and other organizations, awareness of scientific and technological development and initiatives is being encouraged. For example, a list of initiatives of the Science and Technology Ministry is as follows:

- Science exhibitions: Science Express, Mobile planetariums, science exhibitions & technology demonstration;