

In addition, JE vaccination has been undertaken among children between 1-15 years of age. 13 districts in Assam have been covered under JE vaccination during 2006-2010. For early diagnosis of JE cases Laboratory technicians have been trained and JE Kits supplied to identified institutions in Assam.

**Invitations from Bill Gates Foundation
on medical research**

2262. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bill Gates Foundation invited Indian scientists, technical and research institutions to partner with it in developing cheaper drugs to eradicate infectious diseases like TB, Malaria, AIDS, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of House.

Payment of low honorarium to ASHA workers

†2263. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the honorarium being paid to ASHA workers working throughout the country is not sufficient;

(b) if so, whether any hike in honorarium is under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) The total incentive received by ASHA varies from State to State. The recent (January, 2011) ASHA evaluation shows that most ASHAs received between Rs.500 to Rs.1000 per month. Incentives being performance based, active ASHAs get more amount. More activities are being introduced by States to increase the income of ASHAs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.