

Audit Report and Utilization Certificates for the previous Financial Year and contribution of the state share. On receipt of the funds from the Government of India, the State Governments release funds to the District and sub-district level implementing agencies on the basis of their approved District Health Action Plans.

(b) and (c) No specific complaints regarding the funds being spent in haste have been received. The Financial Management Reports [FMRs] indicating the allocation and expenditure by the States are received on quarterly basis, which are analyzed in the Financial Management Group (FMG) of the Ministry and appropriate recommendations for timely utilization of funds are sent to the States. The funds released under NRHM do not lapse.

Deaths due to JE epidemic in Assam

2261. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a number of people in Assam have died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) epidemic in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been sought from the Central Government by the State to control the disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether any step has been taken by the Central Government on its own?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Yes. 351 cases and 89 deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have been reported in Assam till 09.08.2011 in the current year.

(c) to (e) For prevention and control of vector-borne diseases including JE, Government of India is implementing an integrated National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) under the overarching umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The strategy for prevention and control of vector-borne disease focuses on integrated vector control, early case detection and appropriate treatment and Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

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.