

ensure that such a crisis would not occur in India. The General Government debt of India is largely domestic and stood at 66.4 per cent of GDP at end March 2011. This is much below the level of 99.7 per cent of GDP for advanced economies and 85.3 per cent for Euro area for 2010, as per IMF's Fiscal Monitor Update, January 2012.

(c) The target for PSU disinvestment for the fiscal 2011-12, as set out in the Union Budget 2011-12 (BE) was Rs. 40,000/- crore. Uncertain global economic climate, mainly due to fallout of euro zone crisis, has adversely affected financial markets, which has been responsible for slowing down PSU disinvestment.

(d) The indicative targets for PSU disinvestment for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are Rs. 30,000 crore and Rs. 25,000 crore respectively, which are based on the projected figures in the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement of the Union Budget for 2011-12.

Violations in clearing projects dangerous to forests

*8. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some members of the Statutory Forest Advisory Committee have reportedly pointed out certain violations in clearing projects that are dangerous to forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of corrective measures taken by Government to improve the working of the State Forest Departments and impress upon them to follow provisions of the Forest Conservation Act honestly and without any pressure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The members of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) have not pointed out violations in clearing projects that are dangerous to forests;

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

Delay in granting approval for clinical trials

*9. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multinational Pharmaceutical Companies engaged in clinical trials are facing delays in getting regulatory approval in the country and their applications are stuck with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for several months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DCGI has declared a time-limit of 45 days for approval of clinical trials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether foreign MNCs engaged in clinical trials, pegged at a current size of 2000 crore in India, have been compelled to call off their trials in India and proceed elsewhere; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The applications for permission of clinical trials are examined by the office of the Drugs Controller General (India) [DCG(I)] irrespective of the status of the applicant as to whether it is a multinational or an Indian Pharmaceutical company. The applicants are required to submit detailed technical data on Chemical and Pharmaceutical information, animal pharmacology, animal toxicity, human clinical trials, etc. In case where deficiencies are noticed, applications are asked to submit further information/clarifications. As the process involves trials on human subjects to generate data relating to safety, efficacy and quality of the drug concerned, permissions to conduct such trials are granted after extremely careful and scientific scrutiny of the proposals. Continuous efforts are made by the DCG(I) to fast track examination and approval of clinical trial applications.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Payment of minimum wages to MGNREGS workers

*10. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka High Court has directed the Central Government to pay minimum wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In Writ Petition No. 30619/2009 connected with other Writ Petitions filed before the High Court of Karnataka, the petitioners had challenged the constitutional validity of section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 and issue of notification specifying wage rate, on the ground that it can not be less than the minimum wage rate for unskilled agricultural labourers fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. The High Court of Karnataka *vide* its Order dated 23.09.2011 accepted their pleas and directed the Central Government to make payment of arrears. A Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 379-390 of 2012 has been filed before the Supreme Court against the aforesaid judgement of the Karnataka High Court. The matter is *sub judice*.