

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

till the end of March 2009 and the plans proposed by Government for expansion and growth of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While no target has been fixed, in a study got conducted recently by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries through National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) a growth rate of 10.1 per cent for food processing industries has been projected during the Tenth Five Year Plan in case the GDP grows at 8 per cent, per annum.

Autonomy to AIIMS

120. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted total autonomy to AIIMS in all matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare AIIMS as a referral hospital;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether AIIMS has been able to generate any funds from its research work; and

(f) if so, the details of such earnings by AIIMS in 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was established through an Act of Parliament, namely, AIIMS Act, 1956 as an autonomous institution under the administrative control of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Institute is administered under the provision of the Act and enjoys autonomy in providing in-patient & out-patient services, teaching/training of Under Graduate/Post Graduate students, research, etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. AIIMS is a super-speciality institution which provides tertiary care to patients. A large number of patients, including

serious patients, with multifarious ailments come directly to AIIMS OPD/ Emergency for treatment.

(e) and (f) The AIIMS is involved in research activities and the faculty of AIIMS on their own are able to attract research funds from various funding agencies, like Department of Biotechnology, Department of Sciences & Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research, etc. The Institute was able to attract Rs. 20.3 crores of research grant in the year 2003-04 from outside agencies.

Illegal and unethical drug trials

121. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that global pharma companies are treating India as a convenient laboratory for testing their drugs and using Indians as unsuspecting guinea pigs;

(b) whether Government are aware that illegal and unethical drug trials are carried out in the country in spite of the stringent laws governing clinical trials; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to monitor the implementation of laws governing clinical trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, there are no instances of Global Pharma Companies treating India as convenient laboratory for testing their drugs and using Indian as unsuspecting guinea pigs. All clinical trials are required to be conducted as per norms prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. For every trial, approval is also to be taken from Ethics Committee of the concerned, institution.

Further, this Ministry is amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to strengthen the norms for undertaking clinical trials in the country so that the safety of the patients and ethics are strictly followed. This includes, publication of Good Clinical Practices (GCP) guidelines, revision of Schedule-Y to Drugs and Cosmetics Rules & publication of ICMR's "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects" etc.