

World bank financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra

2538. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted three proposals viz., computerization of food and drugs administration, strengthening of Drugs Control Laboratories of Aurangabad and Mumbai to her Ministry on 19th November, 2001 for financial assistance from World Bank during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the State Government has also given a sustainability certificate for continuing these schemes beyond Tenth Plan and bearing the recurring expenditure; and

(d) if so, by when the assistance will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of assistance to be provided to Aurangabad and Mumbai Laboratories under the World Bank Capacity Building Project has been assessed at Rs. 4.16 crore. The project has already been appraised and is in the process of approval.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The project is likely to become effective from October, 2003.

Prevalence of HIV and AIDS

2539. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations International Children's Fund has ranked India second among the countries having high prevalence of HIV and AIDS cases in the year 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for protection against this disease?