

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
MEDICAL INNOVATION FUND SCHEME
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has proposed to launch a Medical Innovation Fund Scheme;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): Yes, it is true that ICMR has launched a Medical Innovation Fund Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to accelerate medical innovation through which support shall be given to test and validate novel and highly creative ideas even if they have a high probability of failure. Initially this scheme will be open to only Council's scientists for support. The experiments if proved rewarding based on initial experience the scope of the scheme will be enlarged by inviting joint proposals between ICMR laboratories on one hand and other scientific institutions or universities on the other. The areas in which ideas will be supported include new targets, new diagnostics, new diagnostic tools, non invasive measuring device, new separation techniques, development of new evaluation protocols, new in vitro-in vivo methods. etc.