

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1129
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
AIDS RESEARCH INSTITUTES
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether some Indian leading AIDS research institutes have been selected to develop and test microbicides to combat HIV as reported in the Times of India dated July 17, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and
- (c) the financial assistance likely to be provided therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) Clinical trials with different candidate vaginal microbicides are being carried out in Research/Medical institutions like YRG CARE, Chennai, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and National AIDS Research Institute, Pune in India.
- (b) Phase III clinical trials with 6% cellulose sulfate a microbicide have been instituted at YRG CARE, Chennai, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore with funding from CONRAD, USA. Also phase II clinical trials with tenofovir gel (microbicide) have been initiated at NARI, Pune. This study is being carried out with funds from National Institute of Health, United States of America.
- (c) The total financial assistance for the phase III study with 6% cellulose sulfate gel is about Rs.10 crores for YRG CARE and St. John's Medical College while NIH, USA is providing approximately Rs.2 crores for the phase II clinical trial with tenofovir gel for NARI, Pune.