

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3219
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH JANUARY, 2018**

FUNDS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

**3219. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:**

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

- (a) whether the medical research in the country needs to be focussed on drugs and vaccines for tropical diseases which are normally neglected by international pharmaceutical companies on account of their limited profit potential;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government and the current status of allotment of funds for medical research;
- (c) whether the growth of health facilities has been highly imbalanced in India;
- (d) if so, whether a serious drawback of India's health service is the neglect of rural masses and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient funds to focus on rural population and remove the imbalance of health facilities, particularly in rural India?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): Yes. Steps have been taken for development, testing and validation of new drugs and vaccines against malaria, TB, Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis, Japanese Encephalitis, Rotavirus, Kala-azar etc. The allocation of funds under Budget Estimates for medical research is Rs.1500 crore for 2017-18. Dedicated Task Force has been constituted by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology for Infectious Disease Biology and Vaccine R&D. Funds for Rs.30 crore have been incurred on this account. Similarly, funds for Rs.56.57 crore have been incurred on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme of the Department of Science and Technology during 2014-15 to 2017-18.

(c) to (e): To promote health research in rural areas, action has been taken to establish Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRU) in different parts of the country with the budget allocation of Rs.67 crore during 2012-17.