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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3942 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH March, 2021

MALARIA RESEARCH CENTRE

3942. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government have closed down the Malaria Research Centre at Rourkela, Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the alternative arrangements for research on malaria treatment and its eradication in malaria prone tribal areas?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b): The Field unit of National Institute of Malaria Research (erstwhile Malaria Research Centre) located at Rourkela has been merged with Ranchi Field unit based upon recommendations of a Review Meeting of ICMR. Both the Field units were only 160 km apart and represent similar geographic zone.
- (c): In Odisha, there are other ICMR institutes and field units undertaking research in malaria endemic areas. ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre at Bhubaneshwar and its units are present in different parts of Odisha *viz* Rayagada, Kalahandi, Tigiria (Cuttack). In addition, ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry also has a field unit in Koraput.

Besides, there is also one hospital named Ispat General Hospital in the campus of Rourkela Steel Plant which caters to the health needs of local industrial and tribal population of Rourkela in treatment of malaria and other diseases.