

US NGO to provide healthcare in Ropar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 5

Ropar and its adjoining areas can now look forward to better infrastructure and health-care facilities with the help of a US-based NGO, Developing Indigenous Resources (DIR).

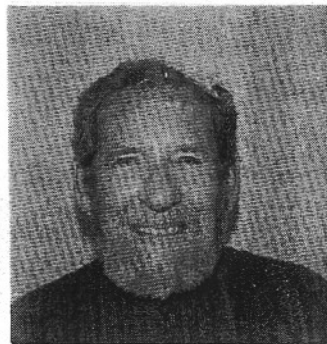
Mr W. Frederick Shaw (70), president and CEO of this organisation is here to start a project on minimising preventable diseases, in general, with special attention on infants' diseases and deaths and on women's deaths and illness related to child bearing.

Mr Shaw would supervise the project. The project has been proposed for northern communities mainly in

Roopnagar district, Punjab. After that, the project would be gradually enlarged by including more neighbouring rural areas.

He had been working continuously since 1968 with this organisation on various projects especially health related ones. He has a doctorate in public health (Dr PH) from the University of California, Berkeley.

He has already worked on many health projects in India for four years. Two years in West Bengal and two in Kerala. His younger daughter was born in Kerala and was named 'Kerala'. Besides this, he has also worked in Philippines and Pakistan for three years each. In Switzerland, for two years and for



W. Frederick Shaw

shorter periods in Indonesia, Sudan and Somalia to name a few. The basic aim of the organisation is to serve the suffering humanity. It is a public charitable non-profit trust, registered in Chandigarh also.

The project would be implemented in rural areas by empowering local people

through education and training. The project would ensure that people, especially children below 5 years of age, were provided with necessary immunisation. Pregnant women would be provided proper care and medical facilities. The project would also ensure pure and safe drinking water to the rural people and improvement in the disposal of waste products.

The pilot project is scheduled to be completed in two years plus another four months for preparation and two for detailed evaluation.