

(b) Yes; the State Government had submitted broad details of flood control works to be carried out during the Fourth Five Year Plan, at a cost Rs. 20 crores.

(c) The proposals of the State Government were examined by the working Group of the Planning Commission. A tentative outlay of Rs. 17 crores has been recommended in the Fourth Plan. Central assistance in the form of loan is given for the execution of approved flood control discussions.

#### Smuggling of Contraband Opium from Rajasthan to Assam

718. Shri B. N. Shastri: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an inter-State gang of opium smugglers is active in smuggling contraband opium from Rajasthan to Assam; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Enquiries made so far do not show that an inter-State gang of opium smugglers is active in smuggling contraband opium from Rajasthan to Assam. However, necessary vigilance is being exercised by the staff of the Narcotics Department as well as the concerned State Government agency.

#### Junior Male Nurses of Andaman Medical Department

719. Shri K. R. Ganesh: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Junior Male Nurses in the Andaman Medical Department have been agitating for a long time for the revision of their pay-scales;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till very recently they were working in the place of staff nurses and are

even now holding independent charge of out-station Dispensaries; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to revise their pay-scales or bring their pay-scales on par with that of staff nurses?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar):

(a) Yes.

(b) Due to paucity of staff some of the Junior Nurses were posted to hold independent charge of out-station dispensaries but they were not expected to perform duties of staff nurses or compounders. They worked independently in charge of dispensaries but their duties were restricted to rendering first-aid, dispensing simple mixtures and making arrangements for evacuation of patients to hospitals, when required.

(c) There are different scales of pay presently in force for staff Nurses and Junior male nurses, respectively, in the Medical Department of the Andaman Administration.

The question of revision of pay of the Junior male nurses will be considered after they pass a qualifying examination, equivalent to that for the senior grade nursing certificate.

#### Training of Junior Male Nurses of Andaman Medical Department

720. Shri K. R. Ganesh: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals to train the Junior Male Nurses in the Andaman Medical Department locally have been implemented;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar):

(a) No.