

Ban on Entry of Indians

651. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of foreign countries banned the entries of Indian citizens to their country, in view of the suspected outbreak of pneumonic plague;
- (b) if so, the names of such countries;
- (c) whether some foreign countries have also offered medical aid in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) According to information available with Government, only one country imposed complete ban on entry of Indians in view of suspected outbreak of pneumonic plague. Some others imposed a ban on direct entry of Indians but Indians from third countries were allowed entry.

(b) Lebanon banned the entry of Indians from anywhere. The countries known to have banned the direct entry of Indian citizens were Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Papua New Guinea.

Some countries imposed quarantine. These included Egypt, Jordan, China, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Russia.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Compensation to Indian Residents in Kuwait

652. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ.
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has approached Government of Kuwait to compensate Indian residents who had suffered losses in Kuwait during Iraqi invasion of 1990; and

(b) if so, response of the Government of Kuwait in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The claims filed by the Indian nationals who had returned from Kuwait/Iraq or who had suffered personal injuries or died as a direct result of the Kuwait invasion by Iraq in 1990-91 or had suffered property damages have been forwarded to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), a body set up by the United Nations Security Council soon after the war, which is responsible for payment of compensation to all those affected by the Gulf War. The question of taking up the matter of claim compensation with the Government of Kuwait does not arise. The claim compensation amount has not been paid out as yet by the UNCC to any Indian claimant.

(b) Not applicable.

Telephone Connections to Freedom Fighters in Maharashtra

653. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether last year his Ministry had decided to allot new telephone connections on priority to freedom fighters or their family members;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above decision was communicated to the MTNL, Bombay and Maharashtra Telecom Circle;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. Orders were issued in 1992 to provide one telephone on priority basis to each Freedom Fighter or his widow who are in receipt of pension under Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme, against their registration under N-OYT Swatantrata Senani (SWS) category provided they are not having a personal telephone.

Last year instructions have been issued to include Goa Vimochana Pensioners, who have participated in the liberation struggle of Goa, also under N-OYT SWS category.

(b) No installation fee will be charged under SWS category and the subscriber will be charged only half the normal rental charges. However, registration fee as applicable to N-OYT category would be charged.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The above instructions have been issued to All Telecom Circles/Districts/MTNL which includes MTNL Bombay and Maharashtra Telecom Circle.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) and (d) above.

Neurological Diseases

654. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the deaths in the country due to neurological diseases are on the increase;

(b) whether the number of trained neurologists available at present are short of the minimum requirements of the public;

(c) if so, the reasons for not meeting the shortage of neurologists in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the requirements expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) According to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, deaths due to such diseases are growing due to increase in longevity and change in life style, eg. smoking. However, no countrywide statistics are compiled.