Blanket Annesty for Underground MNF Activists

626. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOW-DHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have agreed for a blanket amnesty for all the underground MNF activists; and

(b) if so, what are other points on which broad general agreement has already been reached between Government and the MNF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). The talks with MNF are still continuing. It will be premature to give the details at this stage.

Talks with Laldenga, Mizo National Front Leader

627. SHRI G.G. SWELL : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks with the Mizo National Front leader, Laldenga have reached final stage; and

(b) whether, despite the talks, sections of the MNF in their hideouts are still holding firm to their demand for sovereignty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Talks with Mizo National Front Leader Shri Laldenga are still continuing.

(b) According to the information available, at present there are no such indications.

Addiction to Drugs of Youth in Manipur

628. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he made a speech in Imphal

deploring the growing addiction to drugs of young people in Manipur;

(b) whether the increase is due to the fact that Manipur and the Mizo Hills bordering Burma are now the main entry points of hard drugs from the Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand and thus drugs in these areas have become cheap and easily available; and

(c) whether he has drawn the attention of other authorities of the Government to this and sought their cooperation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Attention of students was invited to the problem of increasing drug addiction among the young people in Manipur.

(b) Whereas the seizures of the drug made in Indo-Burma border do not indicate that there is significant increase in the smuggling on the Indo-Burma border, India has, for some time past, been facing the problem of transit traffic in some drugs, particularly opiates and cannabis from some neighbouring countries. The report of the International Narcotics Control Board (1983) indicates that India, situated between two illicit supply areas—South East Asia and the Near Middle East—is mainly a transit country for heroin and cannabis resin.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Treatment of Space as the Common Heritage of Mankind Free of Military Installation

629. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of increasingly strident talks about 'star wars' he intends to take an international initiative at the UN to urge for the treatment of space as the common heritage of mankind free of any kind of military installation;

(b) whether he intends to initiate for international action to clear space of flying debris that is endangering space research