

Adivasis is slower than that of others and so sterilisation would affect them even more adversely, if so, what step the Government propose to take against the officers responsible for sterilising the Harijans and Adivasis?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN)**

(a) A total of 10 568 770 sterilisations were performed during the period July 1975 to March 1977 which roughly coincides with the period of emergency. Statistics of sterilisations are not being maintained by caste and tribe. Information on the percentages of Harijans and Adivasis sterilised is therefore not available.

(b) About 20 000 complaints have been received in the Deptt of Family Welfare and most of these contain allegations of use of force or pressure in regard to sterilisation. Statistics about communitywise break up of complaints is not available. As the complaints have not mentioned the community in all such complaints.

(c) The complaints received in the Department of Family Welfare are referred to the concerned State Government U.T. Administration for investigation and appropriate action. The result of these investigations and action taken against officers responsible are not yet available from State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, there is no scheme for awarding cash compensation to persons who allege forcible sterilisation. These persons are offered free medical treatment for post operative complications and free sterilisation facilities if requested by the person. The details of communitywise break up are not available.

(d) During 1961-71 the Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribes populations increased by 240 per cent and 272 per cent respectively as against the increase of 237 per cent among Hindus in general. The rest of the question does not therefore arise.

**Prohibition of development, production and stock-piling of Biological and Toxin Weapons**

6213 SHRI S S SOMANI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether any convention has taken place for the prohibition of development, production and stock-piling of biological and toxin weapons and their destruction in which India has participated and signed, and

(b) if so, the details thereof as well as the details of other signatories who are the depository powers in this regard alongwith the names of the new countries who have come forward to support this move?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATUL BIHARI VAJ PAYEE)** (a) Yes Sir

(b) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BW Convention) was signed at Washington, London and Moscow on 10 April 1972. Full text of the Convention is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library Sec No IT-944/77]. The BW Convention entered into force on 26 March 1975. The Depositories of the BW Convention are the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. According to the latest information that is available to us 133 States have signed the Convention and 87 have ratified it. India is a party to the Convention, having signed it on 15 January 1973 and ratified it on 15 July, 1974 in the capitals of all the three Depositories, namely Washington, London and Moscow. Kenya and Sweden are among the new countries which have ratified the Convention.