

Details of the total number of samples tested, and the number of samples that failed in each of these offices

is given below:—

Name of Office	Period	No. of Samples Tested	No. of Samples that failed the test
1. M.S.O.	1997	8783	72
2. CGHS MSD	1997-98	38	1
3. CDSCO	1997-98	37	4

When a drug is established as substandard, the MSO deregisters the manufacturer for one year, for supply of that particular drug; in the case of CDSCO, the information is sent to the State Drug Controller for taking necessary action under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(c) to (e) Essential Medicines are not generally out of stock in CGHS dispensaries and the CGHS beneficiaries/patients are not usually advised to buy the medicines from the market. However, as and when a particular drug is not readily available in the dispensary, it is supplied by the local authorised chemist as per procedure. Where the indented medicine is not even available/supplied by the authorised local chemist, the CGHS beneficiary is asked to purchase the medicine from open market and get the expenses re-imbursed from the local authorised chemist.

Identity Cards for Citizens

*130. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:
SHRI MAGANTI BABU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of proposal to issue identity cards to citizens and non-citizens;

(b) whether the Government propose to prepare a national register of citizens and parallel national register for non-citizens in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the impact of illegal immigration on the economy and security of the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A scheme to issue Multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above is under preparation. Persons below 14 years are to be separately registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. The Identity Cards to citizens as well as non-citizens will be issued on the basis of an inventory of citizens/non-citizens organised in a computer readable form. These cards will be used for the purposes of issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sectors, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings. It will also help in easy identification of persons to check illegal immigration and infiltration as also to trace criminals and subversives.

(d) and (e) Illegal immigration not only leads to change in demographic pattern, has an adverse effect on the security of the country but has also a big drain on employment opportunities and social services like schools, hospitals, public transport, drinking water and public distribution, etc. However, no systematic assessment in this regard is available. For checking illegal immigration following steps have been taken:

(1) STRENGTHENING OF THE BORDER SECURITY FORCE

This includes —

- (i) raising of additional battalions under the expansion plan of the Border Security Force;
- (ii) reducing gaps between the Border Out Posts;
- (iii) increase in the number of OP towers;
- (iv) provision of surveillance equipments and night vision devices; and
- (v) raising of riverine water wing of the Border Security Force.

(2) FENCING, FLOOD LIGHTING AND PATROLLING

This includes —

- (i) construction of border roads and fence on the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
- (ii) flood lighting in the sensitive stretches on the Indo-Pak border; and
- (iii) intensification of patrolling among the border.

(3) SURVEILLANCE ON THE COASTAL AREA

This includes —

- (i) intensive surveillance by Naval vessels on the high seas;
- (ii) joint Coasts Guard Navy surveillance in the territorial waters; and
- (iii) patrolling by joint detachments of Navy (Coast Guard), Customs and State Police through trawlers in the shallow waters along the shore.

(4) INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, SHARING AND COORDINATION

Intelligence gathering is being constantly monitored to ensure that more and more pin-pointed and actionable intelligence is available. Mechanisms have been set up to share such information, promptly with the State Governments.

(5) OTHER MEASURES

There are schemes such as Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) in Assam and Meghalaya and Mobile

Task Force (MTF) in West Bengal and Tripura which are being implemented by the concerned States to detect infiltrators.

Standing instructions have been issued to the Border Security Force, State Governments and UT Administrations for detection and deportation of infiltrators.

Based on the reports received from the States of the North Eastern Region and West Bengal, Border Security Force and other agencies, a regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

Special Education Programme for ST Women

*131. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a special education programme for the ST women;

(b) if so, the number of ST women benefited from the programme till date;

(c) whether ST women are being exploited due to lack of education; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to make them competent and self dependent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Scheme of educational complex in low female literacy pockets for improving literacy among tribal women is under implementation since 1993-94.

(b) The number of ST women benefited under this scheme till 1997-98 is 8,940.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) The programmes undertaken are mainly for the educational development of the Scheduled Tribes. However, since these Programmes are for providing the basic facilities to make the Scheduled Tribes women literate, these programmes will also benefit the ST women in achieving self dependence in educational and economic spheres of life.