

(c) whether the Government have initiated similar study for the socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged people, particularly those below the poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite details of the High Power Committee constituted by the National Commission for Minorities are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare have not conducted any similar study to identify the major religious minorities who are socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged particularly those below the poverty line.

Statement

National Commission for Minorities in its meeting held on 6.5.97 decided to constitute a High-Powered Committee to undertake a fresh comprehensive study exclusively of the problems being faced by the major religious minorities of the country. Accordingly a Study Committee on Socio-economic and Educational Problems of Religious Minorities has been constituted. The composition of the Committee is as follows:

Convenor and Chairman

Rev. Dr. Habil James Massey, Member, NCM

Members

- (i) Shri Soli J. Sorabji, Jurist & Sr. Lawyer, Delhi.
- (ii) Rev. Dr. Daniel Chetty, Director, Church Relations & Programme Deptt., Senate of Serampore (Univ.), Bangalore.
- (iii) Prof. Iqbal Ansari, Secretary-General, Minorities Council of India, Aligarh.
- (iv) Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, Director, Institute of Islamic Studies, Mumbai.
- (v) Prof. Angne Lai, Vice-Chancellor, RML Oudh Vishwavidyalaya, Falzabad, U.P.

Following are the terms of reference:

- (i) to identify and study the social, economic, educational, cultural and other problems facing

the principal religious minorities of India, probe into the causes of those problems, and suggest measures for their solution;

- (ii) to examine specifically the role, utility and impact of the PM's 15-Point programme on Minorities (1983) and suggest ways and means for its effective implementation in letter and spirit;
- (iii) to identify and highlight the causes and constraints due to which Union and State Government's special welfare schemes, fiscal policies, earmarked facilities and plan strategies are not resulting into an adequate and satisfactory socio-economic upliftment of the concerned minorities, and suggest measures for the eradication of these causes and constraints;
- (iv) to examine the problems facing the concerned minorities in respect of their Constitutionally Guaranteed Fundamental Rights for establishing and administering educational institutions of their choice, and suggest measures for their solution;
- (v) to make general and specific recommendations for an overall socio-economic and educational advancement of the concerned minorities and suggest the required legal and administrative reforms for achieving the same.

Freedom Fighters

1002. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters who expired since 15.8.1972 but the freedom fighters pension could not be sanctioned to them;

(b) the cases of widows of the deceased freedom fighters for the release of family pension and the arrears of the family pension are kept pending since August 15, 1972 and the reasons for the delay in finalising their cases; and

(c) the number of cases of the arrears of family pension admissible to the next of kin i.e. surviving legal heirs of the deceased freedom fighters are yet to be sanctioned and paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No such statistics are being maintained.

(b) and (c) The procedure for transfer of family pension and grant of arrears in the name of eligible

dependents (widow/widower, unmarried/unemployed daughters and mother/father) of deceased freedom fighter pensioners has been decentralised with effect from 1.5.1992. The Pension Disbursing Officers (Bank Managers, District Treasury Officers, Pay & Accounts Officers) have been authorised to transfer family pension in their name at their level. Persons who still apply to the Central Government for transfer of family pension and grant of arrears are advised to approach the Pension Disbursing Officers in the matter immediately.

Theft of Medicine

1003. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Chori Hone Se Hi Nahi Mil Pati Rogion Ko Davain" appearing in the 'Hindustan', dated June 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether some persons have been arrested by the police from the slum colony adjacent to the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to tone up the working of the Government hospitals to ensure availability of medicines to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Delhi Police seized drugs estimated to be valued around Rs. 15,000/- suspected to be stolen "Hospital supply drugs" from a jhuggi near Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on 18.6.97. A case was registered at P.S. Mandir Marg and one person was arrested.

(f) All efforts are made by the Central Government hospitals to ensure availability of medicines to the patients.

Restoration of subsidy

1004. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for restoration of subsidy on Ammonium chloride fertilizer received from the Punjab National Fertilizer and Chemicals has been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The request for bringing back Ammonium Chloride under price control and the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme was considered. The request could not be agreed to.

Indo-Pak Border Fencing

1005. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether barbed wire fencing has been completed at Indo-Pak Border by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total land covered by fencing;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide compensation or land in lieu of the acquired land to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The entire border of Punjab, except certain gaps which could not be taken up due to being riverine/low lying areas, has been fenced. Out of 1035 Kms. long Rajasthan border, fencing in 720 Kms. has been completed and the work in 312.6 Kms. in Jaisalmer sector has been taken up for completion in three phases by 'December' 1999. Feasibility studies for ditch-cum-bundh along Rann areas of Gujarat and modified type of fencing suitable for such terrain are also being carried out. Restarting of the work in Jammu sector covering a length of 180 Kms. is also under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The compensation to the farmers whose land has been used for fencing on Indo-Pak Border is