

**Dengue Epidemic**

2613. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED :

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in its recent order of the Delhi High Court has blamed both the Delhi and the Central Governments for the Dengue epidemic in 1996 causing hundreds of deaths in the city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have been asked to set up a High Level Coordination Committee for formulating a National Dengue Control Programme;

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for the serious lapses on the part of the concerned authorities for not taking adequate preventive measures to check the epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi which made several recommendations had interalia directed that a High Level Coordination Committee may be set up to examine efficacy of the Dengue Action Programme implemented by the Municipal Committee of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council and Central Government and to suggest definite measures to make the programme meaningful, efficacious, comprehensive and adequate. The court had also commented on the lack of preparedness on the part of various agencies and directed the Government to prepare a National Dengue Control Programme and organise training sessions for volunteers and health officers to be in a state to preparedness in case of a sudden epidemic.

(d) and (e) A High Level Committee was set up under the Union Health Secretary 1996. The Committee has met regularly to review the action taken to control dengue and in the last meeting held on 20.11.1998 it was observed that the measures were meaningful and adequate.

A draft National Dengue Control Programme has also been formulated. However, the introduction of any new programme requires consultation with the State Governments as vector borne disease programme like Malaria are financed on a 50:50 sharing basis and the States have to accept the responsibility to fund the spraying operations and staff costs. Meanwhile, all State Govern-

ments have been given the benefit of detailed technical advice and clinical guidelines for the management of cases. Several training sessions have been organised especially for the staff of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and NDMC by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases and the Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme. Commodity and technical assistance is being provided in keeping with the needs of the concerned State Governments and action taken by them have been reviewed in detail.

**Encounters Made by Security Forces**

2614. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for deployment of additional forces for curbing insurgency in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of encounters made by the security forces after the introduction of Disturbed Area Act in Tripura;

(d) the number of extremists arrested/killed and seizure of arms and ammunition alongwith the loss of the security personnel; and

(e) the number of encounters made within the area of three kilometres from the Indo-Bangladesh Border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Tripura have been requesting for deployment of additional units of army and Central Para Military Forces to curb the insurgency in the State.

(c) and (d) Available information regarding incidents, number of extremists arrested/killed, seizure of arms and ammunition and loss of the security personnel between March 1997 and 1998 (upto November) is as follows :

No. of encounters	64
Extremist arrested	345
Extremist killed	31
Arms Seized	234
Ammunition Seized	238
Security forces killed	75

(e) 11 encounter took place within three kilometres from the Indo-Bangladesh border.