

(a) whether all appointments to Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts in the New Delhi Municipal Council are being filled up by the Delhi Recruitment Board, as per the decision of the Cabinet dated 29th June, 1998.

(b) if so, whether any appointment has been made to the said groups in violation of Cabinet decision; and

(c) if not, the grounds on which the appointment to the posts of security officer and assistant security officer was made in N.D.M.C. by the Delhi Recruitment Board?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the posts of Security Officer and Assistant Security Officer were directly filled up by NDMC by appointment of Ex-Servicemen.

*[English]*

#### **Sanction of Battalions**

3814. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to sanction some battalions of the India Reserve Battalions to curb growing Naxalite activities in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to share the expenditure of each battalion that is likely to be deputed to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the number of battalions so far sent to Andhra Pradesh and the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to help and assist the State Government in combating the terrorist/naxalite activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Central Government has already sanctioned 4 India Reserve Battalions for Andhra Pradesh. There is no demand for additional Bns.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Police Forces are made available to assist the State Government to maintain public order. The levels of deployment in any State, depend upon the overall security scenario and the availability of the Central Para Military Forces. It is, however, not in public interest to indicate the details of the Forces and their levels of deployment.

#### **Tribals Suffering from Malnutrition**

3815. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of tribals are still living in abject poverty and suffering from malnutrition in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made by Government into the living conditions of aborigines and tribals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase their standard of living and provide nutrition to the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Statement attached.

#### **Statement**

No study has been made by the Central Government regarding the living conditions of the aboriginees and tribals. However, based on newspaper reports of tribal deaths in some parts of the country in 1993, a Central Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was set up to monitor preventive measures against deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas. This Committee, in consultation with the State Governments, has identified 369 blocks in 52 districts of 13 states for priority attention. State Governments have been requested to prepare Action Plans consisting of measures such as setting up of an early warnings system, intensification of important programmes such as Drinking Water Health Services, Nutrition, Public Distribution System and employment generation to be implemented and monitored in coordination with the concerned Departments.

More specifically, the Ministry of Social Justice and Employment has launched a village Grain Bank Scheme during 1996-97 as a preventive measure against deaths of children in these areas. This is in addition to the various other 100% Centrally Sponsored Programmes under implementation for the Socio-economic development of the tribal such as assistance to Girls Hostels, Boys Hostels, Ashram Schools etc., schemes run through NGOs for the education of women in low literacy areas and for