

(b) to (e) The post of Presiding Officer, CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Bangalore fell vacant from 1.3.98. The selection of the Presiding Officer has been made and has been sent for the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

[Translation]

Ban on Drugs

5007. SHRI JAISINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons died due to drug abuse during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to get rid of this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) In terms of the provisions of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 the consumption of Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is prohibited.

(c) There is no information on reported deaths which can be attributed directly to drug abuse.

(d) The Ministry is implementing the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, which is a community based programme wherein grant-in-aid to the extent of 90 percent of the approved expenditure, as per norms under the scheme is released to the voluntary organisations for a series of activities such as preventive education and awareness programmes and maintenance of Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres. At the end of the year 1997-98, the Ministry has been assisting 370 Centres all over the country. The Ministry also collaborates with the Department of Youth Affairs to generate awareness amongst youth through Nehru Yuva Kendras, NSS, Youth Clubs, etc.

[English]

Functioning of Swimming Pools

5008. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of swimming pools are functioning in the capital engaged in un-social activities unbecoming of a civilised life in the capital;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the officials responsible for their negligence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Delhi Police has reported that no such complaint has been received by them.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Border Area Development Programme

5009. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose and nature of Border Area Development Programme;

(b) the details of Border Area Development Programme likely to be implemented during Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the details of project implemented during Eighth Five Year Plan in North Eastern area; and

(d) the details of allocation made for implementing the projects in the said area during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Border Area Development Programme is a 100 per cent Centrally funded area programme. The main objective of the programme is the balanced development