

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Insurgent Activities in North Eastern Area

315. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ISI Pakistan is suspected to have a base in Bangladesh to continue its insurgent activities in the north-eastern area of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to discuss the matter with Bangladesh to ensure that its territory is not used by forces hostile to India ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of anti-India activities including support to Indian insurgents in our North-Eastern States, by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence inside Bangladesh. Our concerns at such activities are taken up on a regular basis with the Government of Bangladesh. The matter has been discussed at high levels during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Dhaka from September 6-9, 1996 and during the visit of Prime Minister to Dhaka from January 6-7, 1997. Both sides have agreed to work together to counter terrorism and insurgency activities and stated that they would not permit their territories to be used for any activity targeted against the other. The Bangladesh Prime Minister has referred to the commitment and determination of Bangladesh and India as friendliest neighbouring countries to eliminate any kind of terrorism or insurgency that may affect our respective national interest. There has been further interaction to ensure that Bangladesh territory is not used by forces hostile to India through reactivation of the Joint Working Group of the two countries.

National Waterways in Kerala

316. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any obstructions from any quarters regarding the development of National Waterways;

(b) the present position of the National Waterways in Kerala State; and

(c) the potential of revenue that can be earned from passenger and goods traffic per annum from the waterways of Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Kollam to Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara canals in Kerala

having a total length of approximately 205 kms. is a National Waterway. Champakara Canal, Udyogmandal Canal and Kochi-Edapallikota sections of West Coast Canal are presently being used for navigation by mechanised cargo vessels. Dredging works, repair and modification of locks, day navigational aids, hydrographic surveys are being carried out in this waterway regularly by IWAI. Schemes for land acquisition and capital dredging for widening of narrow stretches of the canals have been prepared.

(c) Techno-Economic studies conducted have indicated that the national waterway when developed can provide an alternate mode with substantial reduction in cost of transportation for passenger as well as goods. Revenue will accrue on account of Cargo/passenger services when the waterway establishes itself over a period of time. Traffic would depend on several factors including the growth of the IWT mode. No assessment of the revenue has been made in the Techno-Economic Studies.

[Translation]

Primary Health Centre in U.P.

317. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of doctors/pharmacutists in primary health centres of Uttaranchal region in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether very small quantity of medicines is being supplied to these health centres;

(c) the names of areas where the aforesaid posts are lying vacant and the quantum of medicines being supplied to each of the Primary Health Centre;

(d) whether Government propose to fill up these vacant posts and to increase the quantum of medicines to be supplied to these centres; and

(e) if so, the action being taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) As this is a State Subject the Central Government does not maintain region-wise details. However, as per information available from State Govt. as on 30.6.96 details of vacancy position of doctors and pharmacists in the State of Uttar Pradesh is given in the attached Statement.

The Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the State Governments under the Minimum Needs Programme. The medicines are supplied to the Primary Health Centres by the State Government through their own budget. The posting of medical and para-medical staff and supply of medicines comes under the purview of the State Governments.