

These activities put together have generated very high tariff requiring major expansion of NICNET infrastructure. This has been possible through extensive and intensive training provided by NIC.

Corruption Cases

3377. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers (Gradewise) involved in the above cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action suo moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) As per Vigilance Manual, as a general rule investigation of cases of corruption etc. are to be entrusted to Central Bureau of Investigations for investigation.

(c) During the year 1995-96, 56 complaints were received against Group 'A' officers. During this period 17 Group 'A' officers were charge-sheeted.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A review of the functioning of the Vigilance set-up is taken up periodically so that the disposal of the cases is monitored effectively. The powers are examined under authority of the disciplinary authority.

LAHDC Act No. 1

3378. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Act No. 1 of 1995 is likely to expire/lapse on September 3, 1997;

(b) whether the LAHDC functionaries have asked the Union and the State Governments several times to effect certain changes/amendments in the Act to make its functionings more effective; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) In terms of Article 357 (2) of Constitution of India as applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, any law made in exercise of power of Legislature of State of Jammu and Kashmir by the Parliament or the President, ceases to have effect on the expiry of period of one year after the proclamation under Article 356 has ceased to operate, unless it is ratified by the State Legislature. Since the President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir was revoked on 9/10/96, the LAHDC Act, 1995 will cease to be operative from 9/10/97, unless ratified by the State Legislature.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) In order to extend the LAHDC Act, 1995, necessary legislation will be introduced in the ensuing session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislature, scheduled to be held in August, 1997. The amendments proposed by the Council are separately being considered by the State Government.

Poverty Alleviation

3379. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world's two most populous countries, China and India, have striven to reduce poverty while the results are remarkable for China and they are mixed for India;

(b) if so, the reasons for successful achievement of removing poverty in China but not in India; and

(c) the extent to which India is lacking behind China in removing poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) The percentage of people below the poverty line in India is estimated to decline from 54.88 per cent in 1973-74 to 44.48 per cent in 1983 and then further to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. These estimates are derived from a poverty criterion based on a minimum level of consumption expenditure which enables people to meet the stipulated calorie norm of 2400 calories per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in urban areas out of their food consumption, and certain amount of non-food expenditure like clothing, housing, education, transport etc. Chinese estimates of poverty are generally income based and hence are not comparable to the Indian estimates.