

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:71

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

BLOCKADE IN MANIPUR

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an economic blockade by certain organisations groups in Manipur on the National Highway Nos. 53 and 39 is causing severe shortages of food, medical supplies, fuel and other essential items in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove this blockade?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (c): There has been shortage of essential commodities, including food grains, medical supplies and petroleum products, in Manipur due to economic blockade of National Highways by the Sadar Hills District Demand Committee (SHDDC) demanding creation of separate Sadar Hill District and counter blockade by United Naga Council (UNC) opposing the demand. Due to economic blockade, there has been escalation in the prices of essential commodities. Rationing of petrol and diesel continues at selected oil pumps. Shortage of oxygen in some of the hospitals has also been reported. All essential commodities including petroleum products are being transported under security escort via NH-53 at regular intervals. Central Government has provided Central Armed Police Forces to the State Government for their deployment along affected National Highways to ensure security of vehicles transporting the essential commodities.

(c): SHDDC has since suspended its blockade with effect from October 31, 2011 following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Government of Manipur. Efforts are being made to engage UNC into tripartite talks with the State and Central Government.