

(c) and (d) A Parliamentary team has visited refugee camps in Kokrajhar in June, 1997. Action is being taken by the Central Ministries/State Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Team.

A Central Study Team of Directorate General of Health Services, visited, in May 1998, refugee camps in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts to elicit the magnitude of health problems faced by the persons living in the refugee camps in.

(e) Does not arise.

Response by Underground Insurgents

*398. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K), the underground insurgents have responded to the peace-talks initiated by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated peace-talks with other insurgent groups also;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the insurgent groups thereto; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Union Government to bring peace to Nagaland ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) The then Prime Minister had visited Nagaland and other States in the North East in October, 1996 and reiterated Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements.

2. After talks with the Isaac-Muliyah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, It was mutually agreed to cease-fire for three months with effect from August 1, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions.
3. The cease-fire has since been extended till July 31, 1998 and political level discussions have also since begun. Shri Swaraj Kaushal has been appointed as the political negotiator on behalf of the Government of India.
4. The cease-fire was unilaterally extended to the other underground outfits also. The NSCN(K) has not responded positively for a cease-fire and peace talks.
5. The Prime Minister during his visit to Assam in April, 1998, extended an invitation to insurgent groups to come forward and hold talks to bring about peace in the region. The Prime Minister, in his press statement at Guwahati on April, 15, 1998 had stated : "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an invitation : come forward;

let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution". The Prime Minister also stated that if necessary the Constitution could be amended to find solution to the problem.

6. No other insurgent outfit has so far responded for talks within the parameters indicated by the Prime Minister.
7. Other steps taken by the Government to check militancy and restore normalcy in Nagaland include, *inter-alia*, deployment of units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved co-ordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of Nagaland State as a 'disturbed area' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

Medical Profession Under Consumer Protection Act, 1986

*399. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the medical profession was brought under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 two years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the main achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether Indian Medical Association has recommended for setting up a screening body at all level of redressal fora to curb filing of complaints under CPA;

(d) if so, the details of demands made by Indian Medical Association and the number of demands out of them accepted by the Government;

(e) the total number of cases booked under this Act during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) All services, if rendered for consideration, have been covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 1986. The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 13th Nov., 1995 had upheld the provisions of the Act and made it clear that doctors and hospitals that render services without any charge whatsoever would not fall within the ambit of service under section 2 (1) (0) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(c) and (d) The Indian Medical Association have *inter alia* suggested the setting up of an autonomous accreditation body to give rating to hospitals according to the level of facilities they offer, providing for screening by Medical and Legal experts to investigate whether prima-facie a case of negligence by a doctor/hospital exists, payment of compensation by the complainant to the medical professional/hospital in the case the complaint is not proved and specifying an upper limit for financial claims in computing human suffering and loss.

The representation of India Medical Association is receiving the attention of the Government.

(e) Subject-wise number of cases filed in the Consumer Courts is not maintained. However, 13, 29, 819 cases were filed since inception of the Consumer Courts upto 31st March, 1998.

(f) To make it more effective and purposeful, the Consumer Protection Act has been amended in 1991 and 1993.

National Development Council

*400. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sarkaria Commission has made some suggestions regarding the functioning of the National Development Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to reactivate and energise the council ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Chapter XI of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission contains certain recommendations in regard to the National Development Council. This Chapter, which relates to Economic and Social Planning, contains 33 recommendations in all. These recommendations, *inter alia*, pertain to the functioning of the National Development Council, scrutiny of State Plans, States' participation in National Planning, issue of guidelines by the Planning Commission in regard to formulation, scrutiny and finalisation of State Plans, etc. These recommendations were examined in consultation with the Planning Commission. Based on the views expressed by the Planning Commission, a Consensus Paper was prepared and the same was considered by the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council in its Fifth Meeting

held on the 10th November, 1997. The Standing Committee, recommended that all the 33 recommendations contained in Chapter XI of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission be placed before the National Development Council by the Planning Commission for consideration. This matter was included in the Agenda for the subsequent meeting of the Inter-State Council but could not be taken up for consideration for want of time.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

*401. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage and non-availability of some life saving drugs in the country particularly in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government had assessed the position in these dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to ensure adequate availability and uninterrupted supply of these drugs in CGHS dispensaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) By and large, there is no shortage of life saving/essential drugs in the dispensaries run by the Central Government Health Scheme. However, shortages cropped up at times, are made up by resorting to local purchase from the approved local chemists. In case of emergencies, an 'Authority Slip' is issued permitting the beneficiaries to collect the medicines from the authorised local chemist directly, without any payment.

World Bank Assistance for Health Projects

3873. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of health projects launched with the assistance of World Bank so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual amount spent on each projects so far, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which each of these projects has achieved success;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch some more projects with the World Bank assistance during the Ninth Plan in the country; and