

(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