ceived any revised request from Kerala Government for sanctioning financial assistance for the expansion and development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State:

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have not released any loans/financial assistance for hospital projects in Kerala during the last three years. However grant-in-aid has been given to RCC Trivandrum and Medical College Kozhebodi.

- (b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.
- (c) to (e) The project of Government of Kerala for establishing a Cancer Institute and Research Centre at Ernakulam was proposed to be implemented in 3 phases, involving a total outlay of Rs. 51 crores. This included construction of OPD Block, purchase of equipment etc. The proposal was not agreed to as adequate facilities, as well as Cobalt Therapy Unit (with 50 beds) were already present in the Cancer Ward of District Hospital, Ernakulam.

A proposal has also been received for upgrading the secondary system of health care in Kerala with external assistance. The Union Govt. is however at present giving priority to States with poor health indices and other parameter of backwardness.

Statement

(b) 1995-96

RCC Trivandrum Rs. 50.00 lakhs

1996-97

RCC Trivandrum Rs. 50.00 lakhs

1997-98

1. RCC Trivandrum Rs. 75.00 lakhs

 Medical College Rs. 150.00 lakhs Kozhikode, Kerala

- N.B. i) Grant-in-aid to RCC Trivandrum is for purchase of equipment to carryout research.
 - (ii) Grant-in-aid to Medical College Kozhikode is for Development of Oncology Wing.

Drop out Rate among the SC/ST Students

- 372. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the drop out rate among the SC/ST students in different States is considerably higher

than the average drop out rates for other students;

- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to find out the reasons in this regard;
 - (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) the facilities and incentives being provided by the Government to SC/ST students to curb the drop out level, particularly at the primary level; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to consider adequate enhancement in these facilities and incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Militancy in J & K

- 373. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a new three-tier security system for tackling infiltration and dealing with militancy in the deep areas of Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Doda districts of Jammu region has come into operation;
 - (b) if so, the details of the scheme; and
 - (c) the extent to which it has achieved its aim?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) With a view to tackling the militancy problem sponsored from across the border in Jammu & Kashmir, the State and the Central Governments have jointly adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia strengthening the border management, neutralizing plans of militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland along with setting up of additional activity of security forces and constitution of Village Defence Committees and gearing up the intelligence machinery. The entire efforts is overall coordinated by the United Headquarters of the State Govt. set up at Srinagar and Jammu.

(c) The militancy in J & K is sponsored, aided and abetted by Pakistan and it requires sustained and systematics efforts to tackle it.

Area of Border with Bangladesh

374. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: