

(d) whether the statutory recommendations pertaining to State Governments under section 9(3) of the Act were forwarded to the concerned States; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Minorities has made 13 statutory recommendations through their Annual Report for the year 1995-96 under Section 9(1)(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The report was received on 5th June, 1997. Action on 12 recommendations has been completed by the Government in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. In terms of section 9(2) of the NCM Act, the government is required to lay the Annual Report alongwith Action Taken Memorandum in each House of Parliament. The report containing 13 statutory recommendations has not yet been laid in Parliament.

(d) and (e) The statutory recommendations pertaining to the State Governments are forwarded to the concerned States by the National Commission for Minorities directly for placing the recommendations alongwith Action Taken Memorandum by the States Government before the State Assembly, as required under section 9(3) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Government Reserves
Panchayat Elections

2036. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is constitutionally mandatory to hold Panchayat/local bodies elections in every State;

(b) if so, whether panchayat elections have not been held in Jammu and Kashmir since last 25-30 years;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Central funds earmarked for rural development under Panchayats are misused in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. in States and Union Territories where the Constitution Seventy-third Amendment Act, 1992 is applicable. The Act of 1992 is not applicable to the State of Jammu & Kashmir due to operation of Article 370(1)(b)(ii) of the Constitution of India. The Seventy-third Amendment Act can only be made applicable to the State of Jammu & Kashmir through an order of the President under Article 370(1)(b)(ii) with the concurrence of the State Legislature. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has not obtained the concurrence of the State Legislature for extending the provisions of the Constitution Seventy-third Amendment Act, 1992 to the State.

(c) and (d) There have been no reports of misuse/diversion of Central funds earmarked for rural development. The sanction order releasing funds to the State Governments invariably stipulate that the funds released should be utilised exclusively for the purpose they have been sanctioned. The State Governments are also advised from time to time at various levels that funds allocated should not be diverted for purposes other than those for which the funds have been released.

Price Control of Five Drugs *Medicine*

2037. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: *934*
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to deserve and delicense five bulk drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to deserve and delicense the manufacture of Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline and Folic Acid.

(c) Does not arise. *Foodgrain*

Open Market Price

2038. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state: