

departmental Committee was set up by the State Government during 1997 under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, former Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University with eight other members and three special invitees. This Committee was required to collect samples of Gutka, Pan Masala etc. being sold in the State of Karnataka and have them scientifically analysed in the accredited laboratories. As reported by Government of Karnataka, the recommendation of the Committee have been received by them. It is now for the Government of Karnataka to take action on the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Committee.

Separately, the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory committee constituted under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA) has recommended to the Government to impose a ban on Chewing Tobacco/Gutka following the report of an expert technical committee about the health hazards of Chewing tobacco or tobacco in food items like Pan Masala, Gutka etc. The CCFS is a high powered technical committee, chaired by the Director General of Health Services and consisting of representatives of all State Governments/U.Ts, technical experts concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India, Consumer organisations, etc. set up to advise the Central/State Governments in all matters pertaining to food safety and quality control.

(g) Representations have been received from various quarters against the proposal to ban Pan Masala, Gutka, etc.

(h) and (i) No decision on the above recommendation of CCFS has yet been taken.

[English]

#### Rationalisation of Medical Services

\*589. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has suggested rationalisation of medical services in the country and to adopt a three-tier system for providing medical facilities to the people at the village and district level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the suggestion made by AIIMS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) No such report or suggestions from the AIIMS has been received by the Government. However, a three-tier structure exists at the primary health care level. This structure is based on population norms and its components are as follows :

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal Area
Sub-Centre	5000	3000
PHC	30000	20000
CHC	120000	80000

The sub-centre is operated by a male and a female health worker who discharge mainly public health functions. The Primary Health Centre which is managed by a doctor, supervises over the public health activities of the sub-centres within its jurisdiction and also provides out-door and in-patient medical facilities to the people. The Community Health Centre which has a number of specialist medical officers, nurses and other para-medical workers, laboratory technicians, etc. provides clinical and hospital facilities within its area.

[Translation]

#### Hindi in Official Use

\*590. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dharna is being staged in front of the U.P.S.C. for a number of years to remove the essentiality of English as a compulsory paper in the examination;

(b) whether the Parliament have also passed resolution twice to remove the mandatory requirement of English but it has not yet been removed;

(c) whether the Government proposed to retain English as actual official language sidelining the Constitution; and

(d) whether there is great pressure on the Government from powerful quarters to retain English or whether the U.P.S.C. is above the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per representations received in the past by the UPSC from an organisation named Akhil Bhartiya Bhasha Sanrakshan Sangathan, a group of person belonging to this organisation have been sitting on 'Dharna' outside the Commission's premises

since 1988. Their demands relate to the use of Indian Languages in the UPSC's examinations and discontinuance of the compulsory paper in English.

(b) No, Sir. The Resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament in January, 1968 envisaged :-

- (1) that compulsory knowledge of either Hindi or English shall be required at the stage of selection of candidates for recruitment to the Union services or posts except in respect of any special services or posts for which a high standard of knowledge of English alone or Hindi alone, or both as the case may be, is considered essential for the satisfactory performance of the duties of any such service or post; and
- (2) that all the languages included in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution and English shall be permitted as alternative media for the All India and higher Central Services Examinations after ascertaining the views of the Union Public Service Commission of the future scheme of the examinations, the procedural aspects and the timing.

(c) Under Section 3 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the use of English language has been continued for such of the official work of the Union for which it was being used earlier.

(d) The question of retention of English and introduction of other languages, included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, as alternative media of examinations conducted by the UPSC was considered by Satish Chandra. Committee, the recommendations of which are under examination of the Government in consultation with the State Governments etc. with a view to arriving at a consensus.

[English]

### Drug Abuse

\*591. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

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

(a) the extent to which the problem of drug abuse exists in the country;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to combat this menace; and

(c) the number of de-addiction centres opened by the Government in the North-East region, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Though no nation-wide survey has been conducted to assess the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country, different studies and reports indicate that there is rise in incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of society such as street children, transport workers, commercial sex workers, slum dwellers, etc.

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided assistance to 81 Government Medical Colleges/District Hospitals to run drug de-addiction centres. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, provides assistance to 278 NGOs for running de-addiction centres, counselling centres and rehabilitation centres.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided assistance to 25 drug de-addiction centres in North Eastern States, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are running 17 drug de-addiction centres through NGOs in the North-East. The State-wise detail is given in the Statement.

### Statement

#### Drug De-addiction centres in North East Region

State	Supported by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	Supported by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Assam	6	1
Manipur	8	10
Meghalaya	1	Nil
Mizoram	3	4
Nagaland	6	2
Tripura	1	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>

### Price of Life Saving Drugs

\*592. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of life saving drugs have gone up very high;

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning to control or reduce the price of life saving drugs;