

All this enabled the peaceful and successful conduct of Parliamentary elections in the State in May, 1996, which marks a major breakthrough in the efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the State.

The Government now intends to hold elections to the State Assembly at the earliest so that a representative Government can be set up in the State. The specific dates would be fixed in consultation with the Election Commission.

Mega Cities

9. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cities in the country which fulfill the criteria and are to be declared as Mega cities;

(b) whether there is any move to declare more cities as Mega city; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER KUMAR ALAGH) : (a) The Government of India had not declared any city as Mega city in the country nor had it developed criteria for declaring any city as mega city. However, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development of Mega Cities introduced from 1993-94, the cities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore had been included.

(b) and (c). The reconstituted Planning Commission will examine questions of urbanization policies in the Ninth Plan,

Kashmiri Migrants

10. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government to send back the Kashmiri migrants to their respective homes;

(b) if so, the time by which all the migrants are likely to be sent back; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for their safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). Sustained efforts

are being made to restore peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and to create conditions conducive inter alia to return of the migrants to their homes. The Central Government is also in constant touch with the State Government and representatives of the migrants in this regard. Although efforts are on in this direction, the precise date of the return of all the migrants cannot be indicated. All possible measures will be taken for the safety of the migrants, when they return.

DPCO Committee

12. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers working with the Committee created under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 to look after the Drugs Prices Equalisation Accounts are drawing their salaries from the Consolidated Fund of India;

(b) if so, the expenses incurred on their salaries during the last three year-wise;

(c) if not, the source of expenditure in this regard;

(d) whether the officers not drawing salaries from the Consolidated Fund of India are empowered to issue demand notices; and

(e) if so, the name of the Authority and ranks thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure is being incurred from the accumulations available in the Drugs Prices Equalisation Accounts in terms of Para 17 (2) (b) of the DPCO, 1979 read with relevant provision of DPCO, 1987/1995.

(d) and (e). Exercise of statutory powers is not dependent on the source of emoluments.

Opening of LPG Agencies

13. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand for opening of LPG agencies in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details and numbers thereof alongwith their proposed locations; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?