

Title: Statement regarding situation in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, the health care services in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were affected since 22nd August, 2001 due to an agitation by the Resident Doctors' Association and the *Karamchari* Union of the Institute, following an incident in which some employees of the Union and Resident Doctors were involved. The OPD services and casualty had been affected during the period between 22nd to 27th August, 2001. However, the indoor patients were looked after by the faculty. The Institute had also prepared a contingency plan to ensure maintenance of essential services and support system for patient care and all vital installations were guarded.

A Committee under the chairmanship of Dr.H.K. Tiwari inquired into the incident that occurred on the 22nd August, 2001. On submission of the inquiry report, AIIMS issued suspension orders in respect of five employees. Also, the services of eight temporary status employees were terminated for their misconduct during the period of agitation.

During the period between 22nd to 27th August, 2001, the AIIMS administration held several meetings with the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) and the Karamchari Union to resolve the issue. A Division Bench of hon. Delhi High Court took *suo motu* notice of the strike by doctors and employees of AIIMS and the situation created on account of such strike. In an order issued on 27th August, 2001, the hon. Court directed Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Director, AIIMS to take necessary steps and ensure that normalcy in services is restored within a period of 36 hours. The RDA and Karamchari Union have since unconditionally withdrawn the strike. All the units in the Institute are now functioning and the health care services have returned to normal.

17.17 hrs.