

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The CGHS is not buying Unani drugs from any blacklisted firms and fungus contaminated drugs from any firm. The CGHS buys quality drugs which are accepted for dispensary use after proper inspection by the approved Inspection Committee in the CGHS Unani Store.

(c) and (d) An enquiry has been conducted. The matter has been taken up by C.G.H.S. with the concerned firms and the process set out under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules would be used if an infringement of the law has taken place.

#### Attack on Home Minister

\*396. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the report from the Government of Tamil Nadu on the bomb explosion in Coimbatore during the period of election, which was meant to be against the present Union Home Minister; ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have examined the report;

(c) if so, the main findings thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the action taken by the State Government in this regard;

(e) if not, the action taken against those persons held responsible;

(f) the action taken by the Union Government for the failure of State Intelligence Agencies to detect the conspiracy in advance alongwith the directives issued to the concerned State Government; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to crush the ISI activities in State ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Special Investigation Team of the Crime Branch, CID constituted by the State Government to investigate the bomb blasts has reported that the bomb blasts which took place in Coimbatore on 14.2.1998 were planned by Al-Ummah to cause heavy loss to human lives and properties to avenge the loss suffered by Muslims during the communal

violence in November, 1997. It has also been reported that seven activists had been prepared to target Shri L.K. Advani. However, the whole matter is under investigation by a Commission of Inquiry appointed by the State Government and headed by Justice P.R. Gokulakrishnan, former Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court. The Commission is yet, to submit its report.

(g) The State Government have taken various steps to check the forces of fundamentalism and terrorism in the State. A number of persons have been arrested and cases registered against them. Raids are being organised for recovery of explosive substances. The Al-Ummah and the Jihad Committee have been declared as unlawful Organisations by the State Government. The State Government, has passed a Bill called the 'Tamil Nadu Prevention of Terrorist Activities Bill, 1998' during the last Assembly Session to take effective action against terrorists.

#### Mass Killings of Santhal Tribals

\*397. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of action taken by the Union Government in connection with the mass killings of Santhal Tribals in the ethnic riots of Kokrajhar, Assam;

(b) the detail of the central forces deputed in the riot-affected areas of Kokrajhar since 1996;

(c) whether any Central investigation team has been deputed to Kokrajhar to study the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Government of India has taken various steps in connection with ethnic violence in Kokrajhar district of Assam involving Santhals. These include, *inter alia* :

(i) Deployment of additional units of Army and Central para-military forces in affected area.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 25 crores sanctioned for rehabilitation of victims of ethnic violence of Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts of Assam which occurred in 1996.

(iii) A Parliamentary team and a Central medical team has visited the refugee camps in the affected areas.

(iv) The situation is being closely monitored.

(b) Central forces including Army and Central Para-military forces have been deployed in violence affected areas of Kokrajhar district. Extent of such deployment varies from time to time depending on the situation and the overall availability of the forces.

(c) and (d) A Parliamentary team has visited refugee camps in Kokrajhar in June, 1997. Action is being taken by the Central Ministries/State Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Team.

A Central Study Team of Directorate General of Health Services, visited, in May 1998, refugee camps in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts to elicit the magnitude of health problems faced by the persons living in the refugee camps in.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Response by Underground Insurgents**

\*398. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K), the underground insurgents have responded to the peace-talks initiated by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated peace-talks with other insurgent groups also;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the insurgent groups thereto; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Union Government to bring peace to Nagaland ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) The then Prime Minister had visited Nagaland and other States in the North East in October, 1996 and reiterated Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements.

2. After talks with the Isaac-Muliyah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, It was mutually agreed to cease-fire for three months with effect from August 1, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions.
3. The cease-fire has since been extended till July 31, 1998 and political level discussions have also since begun. Shri Swaraj Kaushal has been appointed as the political negotiator on behalf of the Government of India.
4. The cease-fire was unilaterally extended to the other underground outfits also. The NSCN(K) has not responded positively for a cease-fire and peace talks.
5. The Prime Minister during his visit to Assam in April, 1998, extended an invitation to insurgent groups to come forward and hold talks to bring about peace in the region. The Prime Minister, in his press statement at Guwahati on April, 15, 1998 had stated : "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an invitation : come forward;

let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution". The Prime Minister also stated that if necessary the Constitution could be amended to find solution to the problem.

6. No other insurgent outfit has so far responded for talks within the parameters indicated by the Prime Minister.
7. Other steps taken by the Government to check militancy and restore normalcy in Nagaland include, *inter-alia*, deployment of units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved co-ordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of Nagaland State as a 'disturbed area' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

#### **Medical Profession Under Consumer Protection Act, 1986**

\*399. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

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

(a) whether the medical profession was brought under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 two years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the main achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether Indian Medical Association has recommended for setting up a screening body at all level of redressal fora to curb filing of complaints under CPA;

(d) if so, the details of demands made by Indian Medical Association and the number of demands out of them accepted by the Government;

(e) the total number of cases booked under this Act during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) All services, if rendered for consideration, have been covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 1986. The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 13th Nov., 1995 had upheld the provisions of the Act and made it clear that doctors and hospitals that render services without any charge whatsoever would not fall within the ambit of service under section 2 (1) (0) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.