

(g) if so, whether the peasants, Agriculturists/land owners have been given adequate compensation; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Army and Security forces are maintaining constant vigil along the IB and LOC in J&K and appropriate action is being taken to counter the firing by Pakistan.

(b) and (c) However, to check infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition etc. through Jammu International Border, barbed wire fencing/flood lighting was contemplated, but due to firing from the Pakistan side, the work was stopped. The matter regarding re-starting of the work is under active consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) The State Government provides ex-gratia relief to the families of those victims killed as per the standard norms prevalent in the state.

(f) No agricultural land has been taken over by the Government for fencing so far.

(g) and (h) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Gas to Power Stations

3916. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government for the allocation of more gas for the Gas Based Power Stations in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has requested for an increase in allocation of gas from 3.5 MMSCMD to 4.5 MMSCMD to Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(c) The gas projected to be available ex-Uran is far less than the commitments already made and it is not feasible to make further allocation at present.

Visit to Foreign Countries

3917. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the officers and staff of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers visited abroad during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main purposes of their foreign visits and the amount involved therein;

(d) whether the Ministry had accorded permission to them for the visits; and

(e) if not, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Fake Currency by ISI

3918. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISI of Pakistan is circulating fake currency notes in the country and making payments to terrorists/subversives through fake Indian currency with a motive to jeopardise the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested during the last three years till date and the action taken against them;

(c) whether any person has been found printing fake currency notes;

(d) if so, the value of currency recovered and the action taken against the accused persons; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such activities of ISI?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Circulation/seizure of fake Indian currency has come to notice in some parts of the country. However, involvement of Pak ISI in such cases has not yet been confirmed.

In 1996, 2 persons were arrested in Gujarat and 4 in Rajasthan; in 1997, 4 persons each were arrested in Gujarat as well as Rajasthan respectively, while in 1998, 4 persons were arrested in Gujarat in connection with seizure of fake currency.

(d) The value of fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India and seized by the Police during the last 3 years stood at Rs. 14,94,996.

(e) In order to combat counterfeiting, various measures have been taken. Currency notes are now

printed on a specially made cylinder mould vat made paper with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues Press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a special unit for investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant.

[English]

Legislation for Rape Victims

3919. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to enact any legislation for death sentence for those found guilty of rape; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Clearances for Marketing New Drugs

3920. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Controller of India takes unduly long time for allowing permission for marketing new drugs;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by DCI during the last six months;

(c) the number of cases cleared and pending as on date;

(d) the criteria adopted for clearing the applications;

(e) whether there is any delay for clearing the applications; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The average time taken for registration and approval of a new drug in India is two years whereas the same is 8 years in developed countries including USA, UK, Germany, France etc. 23 new drug applications have been received by the Drug Controller General (India) during the last six months (January to June, 1998). All these applications are at different stages of examination including clinical trial.

(d) to (f) The criteria adopted for clearing the application is based on the guideline given in Schedule-Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. This includes information on Chemistry and Pharmaceutics of the new drug molecule, method of manufacture and testing of the drug, laboratory and multiple species-animal-experimental-data of safety and efficacy of the drug, clinical trial report of safety and efficacy of the drug carried out abroad, clinical data of safety and efficacy on local population, the marketing status of the drug in other countries, the expert's comments on the generation of the data and the quality test certificate of Central Drug Laboratory, Calcutta which is the statutory laboratory under the Drugs and cosmetics Act.

Failure of Intelligence Agencies

3921. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been led down by Intelligence Agencies in view of their complete failures to give accurate information on Pakistan's defence preparations and its activities of spreading ISI network in Indian cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revamp these agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) No Sir. On the contrary, relevant inputs regarding activities of Pak ISI network in India and other sensitive areas of our concern have proved very valuable and have been acted upon for appropriate remedial steps.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Depositing C.P.F. Subscription

3922. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that cases were filed in the Court by the Workers in Uttar Pradesh against the management of various mills for not depositing the amount of C.P.F. subscription and the Court had found the management guilty;

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure the deposition of C.P.F. subscriptions; and

(c) the time by when and the manner by which the C.P.F. is likely to be deposited by the erring mill management?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No such information is available with the Government.