

**Package to North Eastern States**

\*390. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :  
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an economic package was announced by the former Government for North-eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of that package and how far it has been implemented;

(c) whether the present Government proposes to review the continuation of this package;

(d) if so, the details of the package announced by the Prime Minister till date during his visit in the State; and

(e) whether any high-powered committee has been set up to suggest the measures for the implementation of those packages ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) An economic package for the North Eastern State was announced by the then Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on October 27, 1996.

(b) The salient features of the package are *inter-alia*, setting up a Commission for determination of gaps in infrastructure and Basic Minimum services in the North Eastern Region; priority for creation of employment opportunities for the educated unemployed and setting up a High Level Committee on educated unemployed; full funding for on-going projects; Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures; full coverage through Employment Assurance Schemes and expansion of Border Area Roads to cover Indo-Myanmar Border; allocation of 10% of budget by Central Ministries for specific programmes in North East; improvement in credit flows; formulation of new Industrial Policy; development of tourism; improvement in railway infrastructure and measures for control of Narcotics & AIDS and also a package of schemes for each of the States in the North East.

The projects covered under the package are under various stages of implementation. There is general progress in almost all items of the package.

(c) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) No Sir.

[Translation]

**Petrochemical Production**

\*391. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's petrochemical production and exploration work is likely to be adversely affected due to economic sanctions imposed on our country after nuclear explosions;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to neutralise the adverse affects of sanctions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) There is no evidence so far to suggest that India's petrochemical production and exploration work would be adversely affected by the economic sanctions.

**Infant Mortality**

\*392. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA :

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

(a) whether the rate of infant mortality is very high in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for increase in infant mortality rate;

(d) the percentage of infant mortality rate in the country as compared to the other countries; and

(e) the details of concrete steps taken by the Government to check the increasing mortality rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) As a result of immunization programme infant mortality rate has been declining at the national level over the years. The infant mortality rate which was 96 per 1000 live births in 1986 has declined to 72 in 1996. A Statement showing infant mortality rate for the major States for the years 1986, 1990, 1995 and 1996 is annexed.

According to the UNICEF report on the State of the World's Children-1998, 47 countries have higher infant mortality rate than India. Infant mortality rate is prominently influenced by incidence of vaccine