

to be prepared by the States. Andhra Pradesh Government have already prepared such a plan which has been referred to the Planning Commission. Other State Governments should also prepare similar plans which will be taken up with the Planning Commission for allocation of funds;

- (iii) A Coordination Centre will be set up at Hyderabad for reviewing the progress of the Action Plan and to coordinate the efforts of the State Governments. Union Home Secretary will be the Chairman of the Committee with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four States as Members.

Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the Coordination Centre on 26.6.1998. State Governments have been requested to take immediate action on the decisions taken at the meeting. Action taken by the State Governments is being reviewed from time to time.

(h) The naxalites in these States are still perpetrating violent incidents.

- (i) According to available information the details of the killings by naxalites from June 16 to July 15, 1998 are as under:—

Andhra Pradesh	9
Madhya Pradesh	4

High Level Committee on PDS/RPDS

*496. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a high level Committee set up by the Government for examining the possibility of extending double ration benefits to remote and hilly areas of the country has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Composition of the Committee;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging issue of special cards to families below poverty line (BPL) and making available foodgrains to them @ 10 kg. per family per month at specially subsidised prices was launched in June, 1997. With the launch of TPDS with its focus on "poor in all areas", the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) introduced in 1992 with its emphasis on "all in poor areas" has become redundant.

(c) No high level Committee was set up by the Government of India for the specific purpose of examining the possibility of extending double ration benefits to remote and hilly areas of the country.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Foreign Mercenaries

*497. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign mercenaries and insurgents run the civil administration in different border areas of the country including Rajwar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir and also collect revenues in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure smooth running of administration by the Government; and

(d) the number of foreign mercenaries nabbed and apprehended from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other border States during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No foreign mercenaries or

insurgents are running the Civil administration in any part of the country. However, there are reports of insurgent groups in North-East collecting taxes.

(c) The concerned State Governments are gearing up their administrative machinery, including upgradation of the capabilities of their State Police, to effectively deal with the problem of militancy. The Central Government is providing the required assistance to the State Governments in their efforts.

Concerned State Governments in the North-East have been advised to take strict action to curb illegal collection of taxes/revenues.

(d) 91 foreign mercenaries were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years from 1995 to 1998 (June end).

Eligibility in Pre-Medical-PM/PPD Test

*498. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domicile from the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh are not eligible to take part in the Pre-medical, PM/PPD test (CBSE-PMT) in the All India Examination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken to remove this discrimination and ensure the eligibility to sit in the examination for the candidates belonging to these States?

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

(b) As per the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 21.7.1986 in the matter of Dinesh Kumar Vs. M.L.N. Medical College, Allahabad and others (C.W.P. No. 348-352/1985) the students from the States of Andhra Pradesh and J&K are not entitled to appear in the All India Entrance Examinations for 15% of the Under Graduate and 25% of the Post Graduate courses in Medicine and Dentistry, as the States of Andhra Pradesh and J&K had opted out of the All India Scheme since its inception.

(c) The States of J&K and Andhra Pradesh have been advised to approach the Supreme Court of India and obtain its permission for participation in the All India Entrance Examination Scheme.

Street Children

*499. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of street children in the country;

(b) the schemes introduced by the Union Government for the Welfare of street children during each year of the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether these street children are benefited from the grants-in-aid under these schemes to voluntary organisations;

(d) if so, the details of voluntary organisations in Maharashtra receiving such grants-in-aid from the Union Government indicating the area of their activities in this regard; and

(e) the funds received by these organisations during the said period of this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Data on number of street children in the country is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (the then Ministry of Welfare) started implementing from 1993-94 a scheme for the welfare of street children in order to provide integrated community-based non-institutional basic services for the care, protection and development of street children facing destitution, neglect, abuse and exploitation. Under the scheme, 90% of grant-in-aid is extended to Non-Government Organizations for running the project.

(d) and (e) A list of voluntary organizations in Maharashtra receiving grant-in-aid under the Scheme for the Welfare of Street Children and funds released to them during the 8th Plan period is given in the enclosed Statement.