

(a) whether the Union Government's approach towards thwarting militants' designs in vulnerable areas in Jammu & Kashmir has not been of much success;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether Union Government propose to streamline coordination among the army, para-military forces, J & K police and Intelligence Bureau for battling militancy in J & K;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check militancy in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Militancy in J & K is sponsored, aided and abetted by Pakistan, which requires sustained and systematic efforts to tackle it.

(c) and (d) A system called the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) exists for coordination of security measures between the Security Forces, intelligence agencies and the State Police. Steps to improve the efficiency of UHQ and other coordinational measures are being pursued as part of a recently approved Action Plan.

(e) The Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, setting up of Village Defence Committees and Security Forces outposts in hinterland, galvanising development programmes, and deepening the democratic process.

Checking of ISI Activities

400. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI PROMOTHE MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Central intelligence agencies have failed to check ISI activities throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) 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.

Upgradation of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

401. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to upgrade ESI Hospitals and dispensaries in the country;

(b) if so, the number of ESI Hospitals and dispensaries proposed to be upgraded, State-wise;

(c) the estimated amount earmarked for such Hospitals/Dispensaries in Karnataka;

(d) whether new equipments are likely to be provided to ESI Hospitals and dispensaries during 1998-99;

(e) the funds proposed to be released for this purpose to States during 1998-99, State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the amount proposed to be spent on this account in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) and (f) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi and Noida where it is being administered direct by the ESIC. The ESIC has prescribed norms/guidelines for staffing and equipping of ESI hospitals and dispensaries. The Corporation also meets 7/8th of the expenditure incurred on medical care. Recently functioning of ESI hospitals/dispensaries has been reviewed and an Action Plan for improvement in ESI medical services has been formulated and forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESI Corporation. On the basis of recommendations made by Government of Karnataka there is a proposal to provide equipments worth Rs. 97.60 lakhs for seven ESI Hospitals, Karnataka. The Corporation has already sanctioned Rs. 17.64 lakhs for providing basic equipments in 126 Dispensaries of Karnataka.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The funds will be released to the State Governments on actual basis keeping in view the requirements of equipments in accordance with the Action Plan.

Blood Banks

402. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: