

(b) and (c) The production of sugar in the 1997-98 season is somewhat less than the requirement in that period. However, with the carry-over stocks available at the start of the season, the aggregate availability of sugar in the sugar season is adequate.

(d) The various short term and long term steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production in the country are as under :-

- (i) Early crushing incentive, by way or partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 1.10.97 to 15.11.97.
- (ii) Late crushing incentive, by way of partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 2.5.98 to 31.7.98.
- (iii) Providing low-interest short term loans from the sugar Development fund for purchase of inputs for improved cultivation of sugarcane.
- (iv) Providing low-interest loans from the Sugar Development Fund for projects relating to cane development and modernisation/expansion of existing sugar mills.
- (v) Graded exemption from statutory levy for setting up of new capacity for production of sugar.
- (vi) Providing of buffer subsidy from the Sugar Development Fund to sugar mills during period in which the stocks are abnormally high.

More Distilleries in U.P.

986. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more distilleries in view of the availability of mollasses in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS. (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Militant Activities

987. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to curb militant activities along the Indo-Myanmar borders;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also discussed the matter at official level with that country in recent months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to curb militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Reports indicate that there are camps in Myanmar which are being used by North Eastern insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. In order to sort out the outstanding issues on the Indo-Myanmar border, a Memorandum of Understanding (MCU) on cooperation between civilian border authorities of India and Myanmar was signed on 21 January, 1994. At the recent Home Secretary level bilateral talks, both sides stressed on the continued need for taking actions against insurgents and other negative elements operating from their soil against the other. Both sides reiterated that they do not allow their territories to be used for the activities against each other. They Myanmar side has agreed to intensify the existing contacts and communication links at the local level to facilitate action against insurgents, arms traffickers and other negative elements.

Purulia Arms Drop Case

988. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Inter Pol Task Force has undertaken the case of Purulia Arms drop of December, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Inter Pol will allow Indian Investigators (CBI) to go to different countries including Taiwan for investigation of the case;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Inter Pol will provide all practical Assistance to the Indian Investigators; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit of Interpol headquarters has instituted a study of the Purulia Arms Dropping Case Code named 'Project Purulia'. Task Force of the 'Project Purulia' are

rendering assistance in furnishing required information to CBI on accused persons and coordinating with other countries.

(c) and (d) According to law of a particular country, the competent authority of that country will decide whether assistance is to be rendered or not. Interpol cannot compel a country to render assistance. The requested country can permit visits of CBI officers for helping them in investigation. If required they can call the CBI officers from India for assisting them in the matter.

(e) and (f) The assistance to be rendered by Interpol to investigators is limited to the extent of passing on some information. Interpol's information only facilitates investigators of CBI by sending Letter Rogatory etc.

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment

989. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to popularise Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of strategy proposed to be adopted for the purpose in each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

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

(b) A statement-I is attached.

(c) A working Group was set up by the Planning Commission to prepare proposals for the Development and Promotion of the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy for the 9th Five Year Plan period. The Working Group identified areas of intervention, such as standards of education, standardisation of drugs and quality control, enhancing the availability of raw materials, research and development, involvement in the National Health Care Delivery. The 5th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held on 8th to 10th January, 1997 and the 1st Conference of the Ministers of Health dealing with Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy held on 18.2.1997 adopted certain resolutions around these thrust areas for implementation. The Department's Plan proposals for the 9th Five Year Plan have been prepared keeping in view these resolutions. A copy of the resolutions adopted is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Re : Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan period Government set up an independent new Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in March, 1995 for the development and promotion of these systems including Yoga and Naturopathy in the country. Some centrally sponsored schemes were implemented during the 8th Five Year Plan. They are as follows :-

1. Providing financial assistance for improving and strengthening of the undergraduate colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy,
2. Financial assistance for upgradation of departments in Homoeopathy colleges for Post Graduate Training,
3. Financial assistance for upgrading the Departments in Post Graduate Training and research in Indian Systems of Medicine,
4. Central scheme for development and cultivation of medicinal plants was continued,
5. Financial assistance for reorientation training for teachers, practitioners, researchers to update their knowledge,
6. Strengthening the establishment of premier institutes in the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, such as, the National Institute of Ayurveda, National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth, Delhi, Institute of Post Graduate Training and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar,
7. Research in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was supported through various Central Councils for Research in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy, and
8. Continuation of Pharmacopoeia Committees of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy to develop Pharmacopoeial standards for drugs of the respective systems and standardisation of drugs/and testing of drugs through the Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory at Ghaziabad.