

[English]

**Drug addiction among Police personnel**

\*713. SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) has any study been undertaken revealing the addiction to drugs of Police personnel under the Central Government like CRPF, BSF, etc.

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the short-term and long-term steps taken by Government to treat such addicted personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

**Development of hilly areas and Western Ghats**

\*715. SHRI YASHWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up an advisory committee on the development of hilly areas including Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programmes formulated by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the office memorandum dated 17th January, 1986 notifying the constitution of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT 2642/86]

(c) The Committee will advise on

matters relating to planning for socio-economic development of the hill areas. No meeting of the Committee has been held so far.

**Chandigarh Passport Office**

\*718. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to streamline the working of the Chandigarh Passport Office;

(b) the number of passport applications pending at present; and

(c) the steps being taken for their early disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The Government have already taken various steps to streamline processing of passport applications not only by the Passport Office, Chandigarh but also by all Passport Offices, viz. (i) the requirement of furnishing a financial guarantee or a verification certificate in lieu thereof has since been abolished and the application form for issue of new passport simplified; (ii) all Passport Officers are required to issue passports within a week after receipt of clear identity verification and security verification reports from the concerned authorities; (iii) the Passport Officer, Chandigarh and other Passport Offices elsewhere have been instructed to issue periodic reminders to the concerned authorities to expedite return of verification forms.

(b) The number of Passport applications pending at Passport Office, Chandigarh as on 1.4.1986 is 18,976.

(c) In addition to steps described part (a) above, the Passport Officer, Chandigarh has also been instructed to pay personal calls on the concerned senior officers in Chandigarh and seek their co-operation for expeditious disposal of long delayed cases.