

[22 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that India had committed itself to meet the goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a decade later, when the UN Special Session on Children met to review the progress on these commitments, India was among the defaulting nations; and

(c) if so, the factors that led to not meeting the targets set particularly for nutrition and child health care?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The first World Summit for Children held in 1990, adopted a Declaration that included goals for the survival, growth and development of children. The UN General Assembly Special Session on Children was held in New York from 8—10, May 2002, to review the achievements made by the member countries *vis-a-vis* to the goals and to decide future plan of action. As per the "Progress-A Statistical Review" released by UNICEF for the UN General Assembly Special Session for Children, India's rate of progress regarding most indicators has been higher than the global average.

Child health and nutrition indicators have improved. Substantial progress has been achieved in reducing the infant mortality rate. The infant mortality rate declined from 114 per thousand live births in 1980 to 80 per thousand live births in 1990. Infant mortality rate further declined to 68 per thousand live births in the year 2000. Improvement has also been recorded in the nutritional status of children. The National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99) reported that the percentage of children who are underweight under three years was 47 per cent as compared to 53 per cent reported by the National Family Health Survey-1 (1992-93).

### **Export Promotion Zones for Medicinal and Herbal Products**

\*104. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Medicinal Plants Board has decided to set-up export promotion zones exclusively for medicinal and herbal products in States; and

(b) if so, the States which have been approached for this purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA):** (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a suggestion for the need to set up Export Promotion Zones for specified medicinal plants was made in the 2nd meeting of Medicinal Plants Board. Steps have been initiated in this regard and all State Medicinal Plants Boards have been addressed in the matter.

### **National Judicial Commission**

**\*105. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a National Judicial Commission to appoint Judges of higher judiciary including those of Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has written to all major political parties and the State Governments to submit their views about the proposal of having a National Judicial Commission;

(c) if so, by when a final decision for setting-up a National Judicial Commission is likely to be taken; and

(d) whether its objectives and aims have been finalised and approved by the Chief Justice of India?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI):** (a) to (d) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission which would make recommendations for appointments of Judges/Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the High Courts as also draw up a Code of Ethics for the judges.

As part of the process of building up the national consensus to set up the National Judicial Commission, Political parties have been requested to communicate their views in this regard. As setting up of the Commission would involve amendment to the Constitution of India, it will not be feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.