

Forest Fire control

*52. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to take care, if not check, of the forest fire and resulting haze as was caused in Indonesia recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

(a) The Government of India does not foresee any possibility of extensive forest fire damage and resultant haze in India particularly in dry season as was caused in Indonesia recently. However, some damage to forest vegetation from fires cannot be ruled out totally.

(b) A centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is being implemented in 11 States (U.P, Orissa, Gujarat, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh). During VIII Five Year Plan, Rs. 7.37 crores were spent under the scheme. Under the scheme the States are provided with financial assistance for procurement of fire fighting hand tools, and other equipments, fire resistant clothing, wireless sets, fire tenders, fire finders, construction of watch towers, creation of fire lines, and research, training & publicity. The scheme is being continued during IX Five Year Plan and tentatively an outlay of 15 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission. Apart from this the Government of India has requested all the States to earmark sufficient funds under the state plan for prevention and control of forest fires, the States have also been advised to motivate and mobilise the villagers and other local people to spot and help in prevention and control of forest fires.

(c) Question does not arise.

Medical supplies in Delhi Hospitals

*53 SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the samples of gauge and bandages seized from the All India Institute of

Medical Sciences and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital recently were found to be inferior than the prescribed quality;

(b) whether a huge amount of money has also been misappropriated in the purchase of other medical supplies; and

(c) the findings of the enquiry report, if any, and whether any case has been registered on the basis of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Two cases have been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, after samples of hospital bandages and gauze were seized from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital, relating to an allegation that the materials were of inferior quality and did not conform to the relevant specifications. The matter is presently under investigation, and the details of the cases including the quality of the seized bandages are part of the evidence to be produced before the Court at the appropriate juncture.

There are no other case/report of complaint/ misappropriation in the purchase of medical supplies in these Hospitals.

Rail Accident at Parli-Vajjnath in Maharashtra

*54. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether inquiry into rail accident on 24th April, 1998 at Parli Vajjnath rail station in Beed district of Maharashtra has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the findings in this regard;

(c) the action, if any taken against the rail officials found guilty of the mishap; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the next of the kin of the persons killed and persons injured?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, who enquired into the accident is awaited.