

(i) the seriousness of the Offence in terms of its nature as also quantum of involvement viz-a-viz the suspect;

(ii) past record and background of the accused;

(iii) apprehensions about his tampering with the material evidence or in influencing/preventing the potential witnesses from rendering evidence by resorting to threats intimidation or inducement;

(iv) apprehensions about his fleeing justice and thereby thwarting the process of further investigation and trial;

(v) for ensuring his availability for the purposes of the trial.

The Directorate seeks remand or extension of remand, in respect of the person arrested and produced before the competent Courts, only in those cases and only for such length of time as is absolutely essential and justified for the conduct of investigations. Infact, the Directorate, while seeking remand/extension of remand, places all the relevant facts/material before the Court, and, the Hon'ble Court, after taking into consideration and appreciating all these facts and circumstances of each case, issues such Orders for remand or bail, as it considers appropriate. Hence, it cannot be said that the remand or extension thereof could be for any undue long period.

A review of FERA, 1973 was initiated in 1992 by setting up a Task Force. Further changes, if any, may also be considered in due Course.

(d) and (e) Section 58 of FERA, 1973 deals with vexatious search or arrest of persons by Enforcement Officer i.e. without having a responsible suspicion. Further under Section 52 of the Act a separate Appellate Board has been constituted to hear appeals against the order of Adjudicating Officers.

FERA Violation Case against Dennet Coleman and Company

*371. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case against Times of India Group and Bennet Coleman and Company regarding FERA violation is pending; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The investigations in this case were kept in abeyance since the matter was sub-judice in Calcutta High Court.

Criteria for Declaring Outbreak of an Epidemic

*372. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Criteria to declare outbreak of an epidemic;

(b) whether the current Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF), which claimed, hundreds of lives in Delhi and thousands of DHF patients reported in hospitals, was an epidemic;

(c) whether State Government of Delhi after its failure to fight the disease and mosquito menace had sought any help from the Centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The unusual occurrence of a disease in a community or region, clearly in excess of the expected levels signifies the onset of an epidemic or outbreak. The trend noticed in the past signifies the "expected" frequency.