

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know, Sir, when these articles are disposed of locally whether air freight is also charged?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know, Sir, whether proper accounts and details are kept as to how these articles are disposed of in the localities?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Certainly. Till recently the procedure was that contractors were appointed and they were responsible for the positioning and distribution of these articles. But this procedure was not found satisfactory. Now we have established a Directorate at Jorhat under the Director of Supply and Transport, who is an officer of the rank of a Lieut-Colonel of the Army Service Corps.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, the value of the articles air-dropped?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The value is not known but it was 1,414 maunds.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know, Sir, whether the supply of foodstuff is so insufficient that S.O.S. has to be sent off and on?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no information.

#### DISPENSARIES IN NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

\*581. SHRI R. THANHLIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of existing dispensaries in the North East Frontier Agency?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI

MENON): There are 49 dispensaries in the NEFA. In addition there are 24 hospitals, 24 mobile health units, 12 itinerating medical units and 4 leprosy colonies.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know, Sir, whether these dispensaries and hospitals are popular amongst the tribal people?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Must be popular because 2½ lakhs out of the 8 lakhs of people are treated by these hospitals and dispensaries.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know, Sir, what are the common ailments treated in these dispensaries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery, T.B., V.D., Kala-azar, etc.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, the total number of beds, number of doctors and the number of nurses?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: There are 390 beds. There is one doctor for a population of 9,000 and one bed for every 2,100 of the population.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government considers this to be adequate for giving medical assistance to the people?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The Government does not consider this adequate. Therefore, there is a provision in the Second Five Year Plan for more doctors.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What will happen to the people between now and the Second Five Year Plan?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They will be medically treated with the existing facilities and these will be progressively increased in the Second Five Year Plan