

13. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity/tiger conservation.
14. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.

Suggestions of Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee

*108. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a High Power Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee has been constituted to look into the corrupt practices of medical companies;
- (b) if so, the details of suggestions made by the Committee; and
- (c) the action being taken to protect the poor patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A High Powered Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee has been constituted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to look into the quality and pricing of medicines. However, there is no such committee to look into corrupt practices of medical companies.

(b) The recommendations submitted by the two Working Groups constituted by the High Powered Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee are under consideration of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

(c) Recognizing the importance of Health in the process of economic and social development, the Government of India launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 to improve the availability of and access to quality health care by people, especially for those residing in rural areas, the poor, women and children. Under NRHM, funds are provided to States for strengthening the health system for better delivery of health care to the people.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched the Jan Aushadhi Scheme, under which 113 Jan Aushadhi Stores have already been set up in various States to sell generic medicines. Doctors working in hospitals under the Central Government have been directed to prescribe generic medicines, while the State Governments have been advised to promote generic prescription in Public Health Facilities.

Impact of hike in interest rate on inflation

† *109. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.