

ment have seen Press reports about such a statement.

(b) and (c). Inquiries are being made from the State Government.

Increase in Incidence of Human Sacrifice

908. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of human sacrifice has shown an upward trend during the recent years ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last three years, year wise ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to exterminate the evil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). According to information received from state governments/Union territory administrations, except Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Darda and Nagar Haveli no case of human sacrifice took place in 1967, three took place in 1968 and one in 1969. Information from the remaining States/Union territories is awaited.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to ensure prompt investigation under senior police officers, so that persons responsible for such heinous crimes are speedily brought to trial.

Communal Riots in Ahmedabad

909. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRIMATI ILA
PALCHOUDHURI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had fore knowledge of the recent communal riots in Ahmedabad and other towns of Gujarat ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking

preventive steps in time to forestall the riots ;

(c) the main causes of the riots and the names of the persons held responsible for the same ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the recurrence of such riots and for giving compensation to the victims of the riots ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) While the Government were aware of the trends in Gujarat indicative of the prevalence of communal tension there was no specific prior information about the possibility of riots at Ahmedabad.

(b) The Union Home Secretary had written to the Chief Secretary of Gujarat on April 22, 1969, drawing his attention to the trends in the communal situation in Gujarat and to the need for utmost vigilance and alertness.

(c) The matter is under inquiry by the Commission appointed by the state government.

(d) the problem was discussed in all its aspects by the Standing Committee of the National Integration Council on October 16, 1969 and the all-Party Conference on November 3, and 4, 1969. The Government are of the view that joint mass campaign and education by all political parties in favour of communal amity and harmony will go a long way in strengthening the forces of good will and in preventing of breakout of communal clashes in future. The Central Government also remain in constant touch with the state government to review the action taken by them to implement the agreed decisions.

Regarding the measures taken for the relief and rehabilitation of riot victims in Gujarat attention is invited to the detailed statement laid on the Table of the House on November 17, 1969.

Expenditure on A. I. C. C. Session at Faridabad

910. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI JAI SINGH :