

according to my assessment, militancy has increased a lot in Jammu region, particularly in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda. I don't know whether the hon'ble Home Minister has got the information through his channels that our security forces have controlled and contained militancy in Jammu and Kashmir to a large extent, that's why Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held there.

But this time their militancy has reactivated in J&K again and you know its reasons. As you have just said that many pilgrims went to Amarnath Yatra. I would like to state that Amarnath Yatra is taking place for the last four-five years. My assessment is that militancy is increasing rapidly in J&K and there is increasing alienation among the people. I don't think it proper to tell everything in this House but I would like to ask where is your Chief Minister now-a-days, there is no response from the administration, no feedback is available as to what is happening there, no work is being done, nobody is there to listen to it? I would like to state in the House that the Home Minister is not telling the whole position deliberately and not giving the whole information. Nobody knows what is the role of Government there. What they are doing there and alienation is increasing among people. Today the position is that Rajouri and Poonch districts, which were earlier under the control of the Government, are now under the control of militants. You are not giving the entire information here. It is an important question before nation. Therefore, hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the information which hon'ble Home Minister gives to the House is not correct. The information which they get from the intelligence administration... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send the reply to him.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Investigation into the Uphaar Cinema Tragedy

\*585. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :  
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some head-way has been made in the investigation into the causes of Uphaar Cinema in Delhi fire accident and such other fires in high-rise buildings during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether the hospital authorities are geared to tackle such cases in future who failed in the case of Uphaar Cinema fire?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The investigation of the fire accident in Uphaar Cinema on 13.6.97, in which 59 person died and about 100 were injured, was entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 23.7.97. The investigation has since been completed. The CBI have reported that the fire started from the Delhi Vidyut Board transformer installed on the ground floor of Uphaar Cinema building on account of loose connections. There was also fire in the same transformer in the morning of that day which was not properly repaired by Delhi Vidyut Board officials. On account of leakage of oil from the transformer, the fire spread to the cars parked in the adjacent car parking area resulting in burning of various items and emission of hot and poisonous gases which spread from the ground floor of the cinema hall. The investigation also revealed various structural and fire safety deviations in Uphaar Cinema building.

After completion of the investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet on 15.11.97 against 16 persons. The court of metropolitan magistrate took cognizance of the offences on 19.1.98 and the accused appeared in the Court on 17.2.98. The case is now under trial and the next date of hearing is 10.8.98.

During the last 3 years, there have been 3 serious fire accidents in high rise buildings: in Express Building on 7.6.96; in Chanderlok Building on 17.6.97 and in Scope Complex on 2.10.97.

The fire in the Express Building was reportedly caused by an electric short-circuit. M/s. Express Newspaper Ltd. have reported that, after the fire incident, a fire control room has been provided in the building which is manned round-the-clock by trained fire-men. Moreover, the Express Building has been offered on 9.7.98 to Delhi Fire Service for inspection after completing the work relating to fire prevention and safety measures.

After the fire incident in Chanderlok Building, a Committee was constituted to *inter alia* evaluate the existing safety measures in all the 11 NDMC building and prepare an action plan to remove deficiencies and inadequacies. So far, NDMC has obtained NOCs from fire safety point of view in respect of 2 building, viz., Chanderlok Building and Mayur Bhavan. The works relating to fire prevention and fire safety measures have been planned to complete in the remaining 9 building within 6 months.

In its report, the two member Committee, constituted to inquire into the fire incident at the 7th floor in SCOPE Complex occupied by the National Fertilizer Ltd. ruled out possibility of fire by accident or electric short-circuit and surmised at the possibility of deliberate arson by miscreants. The matter is now under investigation by the police. However, action has been initiated by the National Fertilizers Ltd. to beef up their security and fire-fighting system.

(c) The Government have formulated a scheme to improve the "emergency" facilities in the three Central Government hospitals namely, Safdarjung Hospitals, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals. The main features of the scheme include (i) setting up of control to operate on round-the-clock basis; (ii) deployment of Surgeons/Physicians/Anaesthetist for providing round-the-clock services in the Emergency block; (iii) improving patient transportation by providing colour coded trolleys, wheel chairs, ambulances etc; and (iv) improving manpower support by hiring private uniformed staff for transporting the patients, maintaining sanitation and security.

[Translation]

#### Action Plan for Combating Anti National Forces

\*586. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an action plan to combat the anti-national forces active in Southern and Western Coastal areas on the basis of sensitive information received from the intelligence agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the security environment existing along the coastal areas of the Southern and Western states, which have been used by anti-national elements for smuggling in arms, ammunitions and explosive etc. With a view to destabilising this country. A Joint Coastal Patrolling operation is going on along the West Coast with a view to checking smuggling. Salient features of this arrangement are as under :—

(a) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol by Indian Navy/Coast Guard aircraft and ships from about 30 miles off coast outwards. The Navy and Coast Guard have an

integrated reporting chain covering this outer layer of surveillances;

(b) Intermediate layer patrolled by Indian Navy/Coast Guard between 10 and 50 miles of coast;

(c) Close coastal layer patrolled by a multi agency group coordinated by Navy and using hired fishing trawlers manned by integral civilian crew, naval customs and police personnel;

2. The Navy, Coast Guard and Tamil Nadu Police jointly share the responsibility for coastal security of Tamil Nadu Coast. Navy Patrols the seas and areas close to the shore. The Coast Guard Patrols the shallow waters near Gulf of Manner and Palk Bay. On shore security along the coastline is being conducted by CRPF detachments. The Tamil Nadu police has several police station along the entire coastal stretch and regular patrolling is undertaken.

[English]

#### Oil Production

\*587. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on locating oil and gas reserves during the last three year;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to intensify the exploration of oil and natural gas during Ninth Plan to increase the production of oil from the oil fields;

(c) if so, whether any scheme has been approved and the oil and gas identified for exploration, State-wise;

(d) the expected demand of oil and natural gas and the target set for the production of oil and natural gas for the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) the amount of funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) An amount of Rs. 4348.96 crore was spent by ONGC and OIL for locating oil and gas reserves during the last three years. In addition, about Rs. 421 crore have been spent on exploration blocks by Private/J.V. operators during the same period.

(b) and (c) ONGC and OIL have intensified their exploration activities with a view to increasing the production of oil and gas. For this purpose these