

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) NSG Commandos are deployed for the security of certain highly threatened dignitaries in various parts of the country.

(b) The number of NSG personnel who died during the last 3 years (1995-97) is 24.

(c) Cause of death has been investigated thoroughly by the competent authorities by conducting Court of Enquiries in all the cases wherever applicable.

(d) and (e) All the cases have been investigated successfully except one case for which additional Court of Enquiry has been ordered. Government has finalised Pension and Family Pension in all the cases, except one in which additional Court of Enquiry has been ordered. Death Gratuity has not been released for want of Succession Certificate in that case.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Shahtus Shawls

5921. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of shahtus shawls has been going on at a large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested/found engaged in this activity during the last three years;

(c) the names of the companies involved in this activity; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Available information with the Ministry of Environment and Forests indicates that there is a certain amount of smuggling of shahtoosh shawls.

During the last three years six cases of illegal trade in shahtoosh were detected by the Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation and two persons were arrested in this connection.

One Company, namely, Cottage Industries Exposition was involved in an attempted case of smuggling of shahtoosh shawls during the year 1996-97.

Action under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Customs Act is being taken against the offenders in these cases.

Foreign Trade

5922. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state : whether the State Government of Maharashtra has urged the Director of Foreign Trade, a department of Central Government to recommend the fertilizer unit of M/s South India Fertilizers and Industries Limited for declaring its eligible for getting fix export benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : No, Sir. No such recommendation has been received so far from the State Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Communal Riots

5923. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of communal riots took place in the country during the last one year; and

(b) the number of people died in communal riots, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Six major communal riots have been reported from different parts of the country during the period 1st July, 1997 to 30th June, 1998, in which 50 persons lost their lives as per details given below :

State	No. of persons killed
Andhra Pradesh	9
Karnataka	1
Tamil Nadu	33
Uttar Pradesh	7
Total	50

Linguistic Survey

5924. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any linguistic survey of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of people speaking vernacular languages is on the decline;