

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) While a number of States and Union territories have accepted this recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission, only one has conveyed its reservation on legal and technical grounds. The matter is, however, being pursued by the National Human Rights Commission.

(c) The 'Police' and 'Prison Administration' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. It is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that the Police personnel and the jail authorities conduct themselves in a humane manner. The Union Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to ensure that the cases of custodial deaths are taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. Human rights as a subject has been included in the training programme.

Sugar Mills in Bihar

1405. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of sugar mills functioning under the Sugar Corporation in Bihar;

(b) the number of sugar mills which are on the verge of closure in Bihar;

(c) the reasons for their closure; and

(d) the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) As on 30.9.98, there were 15 sugar mills under the Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd. All these 15 sugar mills have not worked during 1997-98 sugar season (October-September).

(c) and (d) The closures could be due to variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, unviable size, obsolete plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation and many other factors. Sugar Mills have themselves to prepare schemes for reopening/rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions.

Financial assistance is also available from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest

for cane development & rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

Atrocities on Minorities

1406. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought any report from the Government of Gujarat regarding recent atrocities on minorities and their institutions by religious fundamentalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a section of minority community in Gujarat has been driven out of their villages;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have sent any team to find out the facts in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings thereof;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Union Government propose to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the affected States to discuss the matter;

(i) if so, the details thereof;

(j) whether the National Commission for minorities sent a delegation to assess the deteriorating situation on minorities and has submitted its report; and

(k) if so, the details of the report and the action taken by the Union Government on the recommendations of report to protect the life and property of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. As per the report received

from Govt. of Gujarat the following incidents of alleged atrocities on minorities and their institutions had occurred.

The Norada Gram Panchayat passed a resolution for the removal of several unauthorised structures in Naroda, Ahmedabad. The fifty four such structures given due notice under the provision of the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993 included in illegal encroachment by the Catholic Diocese near Deepnagar, and a Hindu Temple.

On 18.7.98 an organisation called Gideons Christian International distributed Booklets by the name "Navo Karar" among the students of the I.P. Mission School, Rajkot City with the consent of the School authorities. The printed forms of the Booklet created misunderstanding and 15-20 persons lodged protest to the Principal of the School on 20.7.98 against these Booklets. Subsequently they burnt 300 copies of the same outside the school. On 23.7.98 the school authorities lodged the complaint with Rajkot Police in this regard and in pursuance thereof 6 persons were arrested immediately and a case has been registered. The incident did not escalate thereafter.

Apart from this 6 other minor incidents also took place in Gujarat. Police and District Administration had intervened in time and controlled the situation.

There are no reports of any minority community from Gujarat State having been driven out on religious grounds through some people reportedly shifted temporarily from Randhikpur, District Dahod but have now come back to their homes.

(e) No Sir.

(f) to (g) The question does not arise.

(h) There is no such proposal.

(i) The question does not arise.

(j) and (k) Yes Sir, the National Commission for Minorities had sent a delegation headed by its member, Dr. James Messy to Gujarat in August 98 to assess the situation and the Commission has submitted its report to the Govt. of Gujarat and National Human Right Commission for taking necessary action.

Migration from Border Areas of J&K

1407. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some villagers in Uri and other sectors along the border and the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir had evacuated on account of continued heavy firing and shelling by Pakistani troops during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of civilians and security personnel killed; and

(c) the Central assistance sought and given for their resettlement and rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) A number of border villages of Kargil, Gurez, Kamah, Keran, Matchil and Uri in Kashmir division and of Biehnah, Samba, R.S. Pura and Hiranagar in Jammu division have been subjected to heavy firing from across the border. The inhabitants of some of these villages had to temporarily shift from their villages to safer places. 72 civilians and 58 security personnel have been killed in Jammu & Kashmir so far since May, 1998 in the unprovoked firing by Pakistan.

(c) No proposal regarding Central assistance specifically for resettlement and rehabilitation has been received. However, *ex-gratia* payment at the prescribed rates is given to the next-of-kin of those killed and to the injured, which is reimbursed by the Central Government. State Government have announced free ration for the victims of border firing.

[Translation]

Death of ITBP Jawans

1408. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Jawans of Indo-Tibbet Border Police (ITBP) undergoing glacier training were died near Badrinath on October 14, 1998;