

Kargil, Gurez, Kamah, Keran, Matchil and Uri in Kashmir Division and Bishnah, Samba, R.S. Pura and Hiranagar in Jammu division have been subjected to heavy shelling from across the border. The inhabitants of these villages had to temporarily shift from their villages for safer places.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 5000/- alongwith CGI sheets costing approximately Rs. 2000/- has been given to each house-hold of village Kaksar, being the severely affected village, due to shelling. 85 numbers of bunkers stand constructed since October, 1997. These bunkers have been constructed by the people themselves and are close to their houses.

(e) State Government have announced free ration for the victims of border firing. The State Government have also been informed that they can take up the construction of bunkers/shelter sheds under the Employment Assurance Scheme.

[*Translation*]

Inclusion of Ramgarhia Sikh in O.B.C. List

1595. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have included any castes in the lists of SCs/STs/OBCs in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from the State Government to include certain castes in the lists of SCs/STs or OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) 249 proposals have so far been received from States/U.Ts for inclusion of communities in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As regards O.B.Cs, proposals are not received in this Ministry and instead these are referred by the States/U.Ts to the National Commission for Backward Classes.

[*English*]

Assault on Women

1596. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the women belonging to minority communities have been physically assaulted in Madhya Pradesh and Baghpat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stage at which the legal proceedings in the matter stands at present;

(d) the number of persons arrested so far and charges made against them; and

(e) the preventive steps taken by the Union Government for checking such heinous crimes?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information an incident each at Jhabua (MP) and Baghpat (UP) relating to attack on Women belonging to minority community has taken place recently.

(c) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subject as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Govts. Details of individual cases are not maintained at the Central level.

Although it is essentially for the State Governments to deal with crime. The Central Govt. has been providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure, besides sharing intelligence with them. It has also constituted a Special force, called Rapid Action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling communal situations.

Guidelines have also been issued, from time to time, drawing the attention of the State Govts. to the need for

taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities. In the wake of recent incidents of alleged attack on minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order enforcing authorities to respond immediately to the complaints of atrocities/harassment of the minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty. The Govt. is clear that facts of violence against the minorities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Welfare of Scavengers

1597. SHRI MUNI LALL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted to welfare department for the welfare of scavengers;

(b) the funds diverted towards other schemes; and

(c) the details of assistance provided for the welfare of scavengers during the current year and proposed to be provided during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Funds allocated for this year is Rs. 90.00 crores.

(b) During this year Rs. 35.00 crores have been diverted to Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) During the current year no financial assistance has been provided for the welfare of Scavengers as sufficient funds are lying unspent with the State Scheduled Caste Development Corporations. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, the tentative allocation for the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents is Rs. 520.00 crores. State-wise allocation of funds will be decided each year as per the requirements of various State Governments.

Infiltration

1598. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladeshi are infiltrating into the country through Siliguri passage; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There are reports of infiltration of Bangladesh nationals through Siliguri.

(b) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladesh nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provisions of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

[Translation]

Fellowship by Ambedkar Foundation

1599. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign fellowship is being provided for higher studies by Ambedkar Foundation;

(b) if so, the details of fellowship provided for Ph.D. and Post Doctorate courses during the last three years, subject-wise;

(c) whether there has been much delay in holding interviews and announcing the results;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid the said delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.