

(a) whether the ISI agents and militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba have taken shelter in Mosques and Madarsas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) As per available information, a Pak national who was allegedly involved in a series of bomb blast cases in Delhi had stayed in a Madrasa in Shergarh, district Bareilly, in November-December, 1996.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youth for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed.

Supply of LPG to Tea Garden

3779. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk supply of LPG cylinders for the workers of Tea Garden has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for supply of LPG in forest contiguous areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The scheme of release of LPG connections under single subscription vouchers scheme including for the workers of Tea gardens has been stopped by DIOC on the direction of the Govt. in the interest of preventing discrimination. There is no justification for giving priority connections on bulk basis when large waiting lists are there. Such workers may get themselves registered with the nearby LPG distributors for supply of LPG cylinders individually.

(c) In order to protect the forests in hilly areas, Government has allowed release of LPG connections across the counter at the locations situated above altitude of 2000 ft. MSL in all the hilly areas.

Development Corporation for Backward Classes

3780. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra Government for setting up of a separate Development Corporation for Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance provided to the Maharashtra Government for the said corporation; and

(d) the number of persons to be benefited therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the setting up of Development Corporation for Backward Classes by the State Government does not require approval of the Central Government.

(c) No assistance is provided by the Central Government for setting up of such corporations.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Class-IV Staff

3781. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction to all the Ministries/State Governments/Banks/Financial Institutions/PSUs and other Government Organisations to recruit regular employees on permanent basis for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the directions of Supreme Court thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Central Government have prohibited employment of contract labour in the jobs of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings