

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Arrest of ISI Agents

3145. SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US paper nixes Delhi Police claim on Bin Laden man's arrest" appearing in "The Times of India" dated January 22, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Police has recently arrested an ISI agent and his three associates in Delhi, whose aim was to blast the offices of consulate of America situated in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any US team of Federal Bureau of Investigation has come to India for investigation;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the name of the persons interrogated by FBI and the procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The news report is factually incorrect. Delhi Police did arrest a suspected ISI agent at the New Delhi Railway Station on the 7th January, 1999 and recovered from him two kilograms of RDX and five detonators. His interrogation revealed that he had earlier also visited India in the company of some ISI agents/foreign mercenaries who were tasked, inter-alia, to blow up the American consulates/Establishments at Calcutta and Chennai. As a follow up on the disclosure made in the course of his interrogation, several other persons connected with ISI sponsored clandestine activities were arrested.

(e) to (g) India has reciprocal arrangements with a number of countries including USA under which personnel of crime investigation agencies visit each other's country for specific cases and return thereafter.

[English]

Introduction of Insurance of Pilgrims to Hazardous Places

3146. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a scheme for granting insurance cover to those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places or through hazardous routes; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unified Civil-Military Ties

3147. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has proposed for unified civil-military ties with North-East-Civilians for countering insurgency in Assam and North-East; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Government recognises the need for close coordination between civil and security forces to tackle insurgency in the State of Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland. With this in view, depending upon the local situation, State Level Coordination Committee, Strategy Groups, Unified Headquarters, Operation Groups etc. have been set up.

Reserved Posts in Delhi University

3148. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: