

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC and OIL have been carrying out exploration activities including seismic surveys in their operational areas in different parts of the country. As a result of their exploration efforts, ONGC & OIL have been able to establish as on 1.4.1997, in place volume of 5343.50 MMTs and 790.48 MMTs of oil+oil equivalent of gas respectively in their operating areas.

(c) Seismic surveys are being carried out by these two companies in Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Upper Assam, AAFB, Cambay, Rajasthan, Himalayan Foot Hills, Vindhyan, Bengal and Ganga Basin in addition to East Coast and West Coast offshore.

Loans to Backward Classes

1102. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission for Backward Classes have issued instruction to the Government for providing loans to the people belonging to backward classes through the loan distribution system of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Terrorist Activities

1103. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of incidents of attacks by various terrorists group in Jammu and Kashmir from January 1, 1996 to May 15, 1998 and the number of persons killed, injured and kidnapped in the said attacks;

(b) the number of terrorists arrested, injured and killed during the above period;

(c) the details of weapons and other materials seized from killed terrorists;

(d) whether any proof of the involvement of the Pakistan's ISI has been found in this regard; and

(e) if so, the concrete measures taken to check such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) There were 9285 incidents of terrorists violence in J&K from Jan. 1996 to 15th May 1998 including explosions, Rocket Attacks, random firing, arson, arms snatching etc. and 1224 cases of abduction. 2521 Civilians and 439 security forces personnel were killed, and 2994 Civilians and 1049 security forces personnel were injured respectively during the period.

(b) 2502 terrorists were killed and 3967 were apprehended during the period, it is not possible to ascertain the number of terrorist injured.

(c) 4300 A.K. Series Rifles, 2331 Pistols/Revolvers, 175 UMGs, 111 RPG's, 21 LMGs/SLR, 124 Sniper Rifles, 214 Rocket Launchers, 395 Rocket Boosters and a large quantity of accessories, assorted ammunition, explosive material and communication equipment etc. were recovered from the militants during the period.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. It is a well known fact that Pak ISI is sponsoring, aiding and abetting militancy in J&K. Interrogation reports of a number of militants arrested by Security Forces and diaries/documents etc. recovered from them have confirmed this fact.

The steps taken by the Government to tackle militancy in J&K include sustained anti-terrorist operations by the Police and the Security Forces, including intensive patrolling on the border/LOC and hinterland, establishing pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening of State Police, strengthening of the intelligence network and coordination of security arrangements among various agencies. A Special Group has also been recently constituted to prepare specific Action Plan to tackle militancy in J&K.

Waiving off Accumulated Loans

1104. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to waive off Rs. 1,450/- crores of loan taken by J&K Government; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The Ministry of Finance, has however been requested to keep in view the request of J&K Government for waiver of accumulated loans while finalising the terms of reference of the 11th Finance Commission.

[Translation]

Migration from Jammu and Kashmir

1105. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the militants killed a large number of persons near Srinagar;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed including the security personnel during the last three months till date;

(c) whether the people have migrated in large number from villages due to fear of being killed.

(d) if so, the number of houses destroyed and number of families left their houses and migrated to other places;

(e) the details of places in the border areas of J&K where the terrorist killed large number civilians; and

(f) whether the above areas comes under the control of BSF/Army/Central Security Force or the State Police ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a), (b) and (c) Incidents of killings by militants are not confined to particular areas. 285 Civilians and 68 Security Forces Personnel were killed in militant violence in J&K during the period from 1 January, 1998 to 15 May, 1998. The Major incident in the recent past near Srinagar was at Wandhama where 23 persons were killed while in the border areas the place where terrorists recently killed large number of persons are Prankote & Dhakikote Surankote.

(c) The recent incidents of killings of innocent people at Parankot (Udhampur Distt.) and Surankot (Poonch) had created a sense of fear, which has resulted in some migration. However, as reported by State Government, due to the security measures taken in these areas, some of the migrants have already started going back to their native places.

(d) As per the State Government one houses and one temple were gutted in the incidents near Srinagar at Wandhama and 3 houses and 1 shop were burnt at Prankote/Dhakikote in Udhampur Distt.

(f) The Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of J&K reviews the deployment of Security Forces in the state and it would not be in the public interest to divulge details in this regard.

[English]

Sending Back of Government Employees

1106. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to shift back Central Government employees who were brought on

deputation to other posts of country including Delhi from Kashmir in wake of the large scale of killing since, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the situation has become conducive to send back the migrant employees to Kashmir; and

(d) if not, the reasons for their sending back ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Lashkar's Valley Jihad

1107. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Thousands ready to Join Lashkar's Valley Jihad" appearing in Indian Express dated May 7, 1998; and

(b) if so, the action Government intends to take in restricting these Lashkars sent to J&K for committing subversive activities ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Government have seen the New item.

(b) Close vigil is being kept by the security forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc. deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOD/Border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the Border, and close and continuous co-ordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies etc. The arrangements are being continuously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary.

Talks with Kashmir Hurriyat Leaders

1108. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any move to have talks with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the leaders of Hurriyat Conference thereto;

(d) whether the Government have consulted the major political parties in this regard;