

(c) the concrete steps being worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) 'Prisons' being a State subject as per Entry 4 of List II - State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to take measures such as providing education in order to ensure proper rehabilitation of prisoners. The Central Government, on its part, has been sending advisories and providing financial assistance to the State Governments to supplement their efforts in the above direction.

Killing of People by Ranveer Sena in Bihar

231. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
 SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
 SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the law and order situation in Bihar is deteriorating steadily where a number of dalits and tribals have been gunned down by Ranveer Sena recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent any central team to study the situation in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any report in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have also received any request from the public of Bihar to ban the activities of Ranveer Sena in the State;

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(h) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance to safeguard the interest of the dalits in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (h) The law and order situation in Bihar has been a cause of concern for quite some time, especially after the Laxmanpur Bathe incident in which 58 persons were killed on December 1, 1997. After the killing of Shri Brij Behari Prasad, MLA, at Patna and Shri Ajit Sarkar, MLA, at Purnea, a Central Team comprising three officials was deputed to Bihar on June 17, 1998 to assess the

prevailing law and order situation in the State. The Central Team observed that the situation in Bihar was extremely bad and the people, by and large, were living in a state of fear and insecurity.

2. After the carnage at Shankarbigha Tola on January 25, 1999 in which 22 persons lost their lives, a Central Team visited Bihar from February 1 to 3, 1999 to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation in Jehanabad. The Central Team observed that the situation was still tense and the possibility of such carnages could not be ruled out unless a multi-faceted approach was adopted to tackle the ongoing violence. It was also brought to the notice of the Central Team that the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the State Government after the Laxmanpur Bathe carnage to ascertain the links of Ranvir Sena had not taken off. The Ranvir Sena has already been declared as an unlawful association.

3. A Proclamation under section 356 of the Constitution of India has since been issued in relation to the State of Bihar.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for the SC/ST

232. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of welfare schemes being implemented by the Union Government for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the backward areas of Bihar;

(b) whether these schemes have been reviewed by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The details of schemes being implemented by the Union Government for upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in backward areas of the country, including Bihar, alongwith their review position are given in the attached statement - I to VII.

Statement-I

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Upgradation of Merit for SC/STs

The objective of the Scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Castes'/Scheduled Tribes' students by providing them with facilities for allround development through education in residential schools.