

Demand of More Para-Military Forces

1053. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura have demanded for more Para-Military forces from the Union Government to curb the extremist activities/Insurgency in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Central Para-Military Forces are made available to the State Governments to assist them to maintain public order. The levels of deployment depend upon over all security scenario and the availability of Central Para-Military Forces. Accordingly, Central Para-Military Forces have been made available to Government of Tripura keeping in view the overall availability of these forces.

[Translation]

Fund for Family Planning

1054. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total grant-in-aid provided to Gujarat for family planning programme during 1997-98;

(b) whether the total amount granted by the Government has been utilised by the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) An amount of Rs. 7505.43 lakhs was released to Gujarat in cash and kind.

(b) to (d) The Grant-in-Aid- to States is both in cash and kind. The assistance in kind includes drug kits, dispensary kits, contraceptives etc. It is given on the basis of utilisation/requirements, and so there is no surplus. The assistance in cash, is initially given on the basis of assessed requirement for salaries etc, and is finally settled on the basis of audited accounts.

Compensation Cases

1055. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases received for compensation in connection with Bhopal Gas tragedy at present;

(b) the total number of cases received in the beginning and the number of cases disposed of;

(c) the number of cases which have been rejected out of them and the number of cases in which nothing has been paid as compensation amount to the applicant; and

(d) the number of cases pending in courts and the time by which these are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) During the period December'96 to February'97, when fresh claims were invited, a total of 4.08 lakh claims have been filed.

(b) to (d) The position of disposal of earlier cases, as on 30.4.98 is as follows :

Claims registered	6.19 lakhs
Claims disposed	6.14 lakhs
Claims rejected	2.72 lakhs
Claims pending	0.05 lakhs

The office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, has informed that the pending cases are likely to be disposed of by the end of June '98.

[English]

Bomb Explosions

1056. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a series of Bomb Explosions killed passengers and injured several others in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other places of the country during December, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu, has sought CBI probe into the train blasts; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) According to information available, on 6.12.1997, there were three bomb explosions in three different trains, one in the Cheran Express at the Erode Railway Station, one in the Pandian Express at the

Tiruchi Railway Junction and one in the Alleppey Express at the Tiruchur Railway Station. In these incidents nine persons were killed while sixty persons sustained severe injuries.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for ordering a CBI probe into these incidents. The views of the CBI in this regard have been communicated to the State Government. The response of the State Government is awaited.

Ban on Child Labour in Carpet Industry

1057. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban child labour in the carpet industry;

(b) if so, the date by which the child labour is likely to be banned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations (including the carpet industry), is already prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997

1058. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance issued on October 1, 1997, has since been lapsed;

(b) if so, the regulations are in force for regulating or controlling the issue and sale of lotteries; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing a legislation before the Parliament to regulate rather ban Central and State Government lotteries as per entry 40 of the Union List in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) to (c) In order to give continued effect to the provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997 promulgated on the 1st day of October, 1997, the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance 1997 was promulgated on the 30th day of December, 1997. As the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997, was going to lapse on the 5th day of May, 1998, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on the 23rd day of April, 1998.

In order to replace the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 by an Act, the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill,

1998 has since been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 27th day of May, 1998.

Reservation of STs Candidates

1059. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs to do away with 7.5 per cent reservation for scheduled tribes candidates in recruitment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor ?

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

Census on Enclaves

1060. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of India in Bangladesh was made last, Enclave-wise;

(b) whether that was the first and the last census of those Indian Enclaves; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves by the Government since then ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) The Census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of Indian in Bangladesh was conducted at the 1951 Census.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has no administrative control or access to the Enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence it has not been possible to conduct any Census after 1951.

Oil and Gas Exploration

1061. COL. SONA- RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :