

The Government has also decided that the Union territory of Delhi be granted full Statehood except for National Capital Territory which will be administered by the Central Government.

(c) The proposed States of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are being carved out of the existing States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively. The Resolutions passed by the State Legislature of Uttar Pradesh specify the boundaries of the proposed State of Uttaranchal/Uttarakhand. The Resolutions passed by the State Legislative Assembly of Bihar and the State Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh speak of the formation of separate States of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Jharkhand Area of Bihar and Chhattisgarh Region of Madhya Pradesh are distinct geographical entities. Anyway, in view of the provisions of article 3 of the Constitution of India, the Legislatures of the existing States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh will get due opportunity to express their views on various provisions of the Bills providing for the creation of new States. These Bill will *inter alia*, contain provisions in regard to the boundaries, names, etc. of the proposed States.

(d) and (e) The Government is not contemplating any general re-organisation of the State and, as such, no proposal to constitute a State Reorganisation Commission is under its consideration.

(f) and (g) The Creation of new States may lead to an increase in administrative expenditure but this has to be viewed in the context of the aspirations of the people of the concerned areas. There are well laid down norms for providing financial assistance to the States.

[English]

Appointment of Governors

*388. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are consulting the State Governments and eliciting their views prior to the appointment of Governors;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to keep the institution of Governor out from being politicized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Article 155 of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. However, as a matter of practice, the Chief

Minister of the State is normally consulted before its Governor is appointed.

(c) and (d) The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations had made certain recommendations in regard to the criteria for selection of Governors. These recommendations were considered by the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council in its meeting held on the 10th of November, 1997. However, the Inter-State Council is yet to take a view in the matter.

VIP Security

*389. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the general road users are forced to waste precious time everyday during VIP security arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any other optional device to save the VIP's from this show of exorbitant safety measures and thereby save the common road-user from harassment;

(d) the criteria observed in providing and withdrawing security for various categories;

(e) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to reduce the expenditure and lessen the burden on the security force; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) During the road journeys of the Prime Minister and the President of India, traffic is closed/diverted from the route of the VVIP to provide clear passage, on security considerations. This causes some inconvenience to the public. The Government is concerned about his inconvenience, but it is considered necessary to resort to this practice on security considerations. However, the endeavour of the Government is to ensure that the inconvenience to the general public is reduced to the minimum. The guidelines in this regard are reviewed from time to time.

(d) to (f) Security is provided based on threat perception in individual cases. The security of the protectees is reviewed periodically based on latest threat perception in each case and necessary changes are made as warranted. This is a continuing exercise and in the last such review security of 111 persons was withdrawn. This exercise of review keeps the expenditure as well as deployment of police personnel on security under check.