

The team to Bihar was sent to assess the prevailing law and order situation in the State and the steps taken by the State Government to instil confidence in the general public in view of the killings of public representatives. The team to West Bengal was deputed to look into specific cases of crime committed against certain sections of the population during the Panchayat polls and the steps taken by the State Government to instil confidence among the population. Each team comprised three officers and was headed by an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The reports of the team relate to the prevailing law and order situation in the concerned States.

Reservations were expressed by some political leaders, particularly of West Bengal, about the constitutionality of sending Central teams to the States.

Article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the discharge of this duty, the Central Government is expected to keep itself posted with respect to goings-on in all States. Visits of Central officials to the States are part of this process.

No proposal to depute a Central team to any State is under consideration at present.

[English]

Working of RAF

4089. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Battalions of Rapid Action Force are working in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether various States have started similar battalion of their own without prior permission of the Union Government and they are being utilised for their political purposes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to expand these Battalions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) There are Ten Battalions of Rapid Action Force. Three are located in Uttar Pradesh and one each in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) State Governments do not require sanction of the Central Government for raising State Police Forces from their own resources. It had come to the notice that some of the State Governments have raised special wings or special Forces in their States using the name of Rapid Action Force as suffix or prefix. All the States/UT Governments had been advised not to use the name of RAF as suffix or prefix while raising their specialised Forces and also not to prescribe the same uniform as authorised to RAF.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Excess Admission in Medical Colleges in Karnataka

4090. SHRI. H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether excess admission of students in Karnataka has been made in violation of Section 10A of the Medical Council of India Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has taken a serious view of the excess admissions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Gas Utility Policy

4091. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Gas Utility Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Government already has a policy on gas utilisation.

(b) The present policy provides for allocation of gas according to imputed economic value of natural gas use