

Terrorism

1974. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether terrorism from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations are on the increase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of States affected by such activities; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) There has been some increase in terrorism from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations, especially in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

There were 24 explosions in Delhi and 3 explosions in Ghaziabad (UP) during 1997 in which 11 persons were killed and 241 injured. Investigations in these explosions led to the arrest of 9 militants, belonging to one community responsible for explosions in Delhi and Gaziabad. These militants were connected with Lashkar-e-Taiba and were trained in some neighbouring countries, motivated and financed by a militant group based in Pakistan.

There were a series of 14 bomb blasts in Coimbatore on 14th February, 1998 claiming more than 60 lives and injuring 190 persons. Al-Ummah, a fundamentalist group was found responsible for the serial bomb explosions in Coimbatore.

3 bomb explosions took place in Mumbai on 27th February, 1998 resulting in 4 deaths and injuries to 30 persons. Investigations into these explosions revealed that they were caused by militants trained and motivated by Pak-ASI.

(d) Various Central and State security agencies are aware of the threat from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations and are constantly monitoring the situation and continuing their vigil.

Abolition of Carrying Night Soil

1975. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government advanced loan to the Safai-Karamachris and their dependants for starting their business under the new scheme for abolishing the practice of carrying night soil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the beneficiaries under this scheme are deprived of the full amount sanctioned to them and lion share is being grabbed by some firms/agencies in the bogus names; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the irregularities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, under the National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents launched in March, 1992 Central Assistance is released to State Scheduled Caste Development and Finance corporations for rehabilitation of Scavengers in various trades and occupations by providing subsidy, margin money loan and bank loan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such information has come to the notice of the Government.

[Translation]

Barauni Refinery

1976. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Barauni Refinery in Bihar is functioning as per its installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the work on laying pipe line from Haldia to Barauni is going on;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed and the manner in which the capacity of Barauni Refinery is likely to be affected by laying this pipe line; and

(e) the action plan proposed to be made for full utilisation of its installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The crude throughput of Barauni Refinery during 1997-98 was 2.18 MMTPA as against the installed capacity of the refinery as 3.3 MMTPA. The low capacity utilisation is due to non-availability of adequate crude oil from Assam Oil Fields.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Haldia Barauni Pipeline Project of IOC is scheduled to be completed in July 1999. This pipeline will be utilized to pump imported crude oil from Haldia to Barauni to meet full capacity utilization of Barauni Refinery.