

the role played by them in the massacre took place in the State recently;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue of these foreign mercenaries with concerned Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) There are at present around ten militant organisations in Jammu and Kashmir. Their names are as under:

- (1) Hizbul Mujahideen
- (2) Harkat-ul-Ansar
- (3) Laskar-e-Toiba
- (4) Al-Burg
- (5) Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen
- (6) Al-Jehad
- (7) J&K Liberation Front
- (8) Al-Umar Mujahideen
- (9) Hizbullah
- (10) Dukhtran-e-Milat

(b) Out of the above mentioned ten groups, Harkat-ul-Ansar and Laskar-e-Toiba are the PAN Islamic Outfits and are based in Pakistan. The other groups are also supported and financed actively from Pakistan and some of them even have their bases in Pakistan/POK.

Harkat-ul-Ansar, Hizbul Mujahideen and Laskar-e-Toiba are the most active militant groups involved in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir at present. However there is no specific input to identify the particular group involved in the recent massacre at Prankot and also no group has claimed responsibility for massacre, so far.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has raised the issue of involvement of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir with the Pak authorities at every available opportunity. Government have also apprised the international community about the support being extended by Pakistan, to groups involved in terrorist activities in India.

[English]

Political and Economic Problems of Assam

1899. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the political and economic problems of Hill areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government shall convene

a meeting of the Autonomous Hill Councils of Assam to thrash out the issues; and

(c) if so, the details of other steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting is being convened in the Ministry of Home Affairs with the officials of Government of Assam, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and representatives of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council on 18.6.98 at New Delhi to discuss the issues pertaining to the two Autonomous Councils in Hill districts of Assam.

(c) Government of India is committed to the implementation of MOU signed with representative Organisations of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts on 1.4.95. Accordingly, the Government of Assam has been requested to resolve pending issues. Government of India also proposes to provide greater executive and financial powers and autonomy to these Autonomous Councils and VI Schedule areas. Proposal in this regard has already been sent to Government of Assam.

Minorities living in Assam

1900. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has collected information regarding the number of minorities living in Assam at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of minorities including Buddhists, Christians and Muslims as well as Hindus, population in 1971; and

(d) the extent to which the population of minorities have increased/decreased by 1971 or onward?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The number of minorities including Buddhists, Christians, Muslims as well as Hindus population as per 1971 and 1991 Censuses alongwith percentage variations between 1971-1991 for Assam are given below:

Name of Religion	Population		Percentage Variation 1971-1991
	1971 Census	1991 Census	
1	2	3	4
Total Population	14,625,152	22,414,322	+53.26
Hindus	10,604,618	15,047,293	+41.89