

consent to meet 50% of the project cost. CIPET has informally inspected three sites in and around Guwahati. One site will be finalised in consultation with the local authorities. The project is expected to be completed within three years from the date of handing over of the land to CIPET.

Vidharbha State

86. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL ;
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for the creation of separate Vidharbha State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received for the creation of a separate State of Vidharbha from various organisations, such as, Maharashtra State Indira Congress Committee (Tiwari), Mumbai; Vidharbha Sangarsh Parishad, Nagpur and Vidharbha Rajya Congress Kriti Samiti, Nagpur. A representation from certain Members of Parliament and prominent leaders has also been received.

[Translation]

Creation of New States

87. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for creation of new States;

(b) whether the demand to give Statehood to Andaman and Nicobar Island has been made since long;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give Statehood like Delhi to Andaman and Nicobar;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) At present, the Government is considering only those cases for grant of Statehood where the concerned State Legislatures have passed resolutions recommending the creation of new States.

There has been a demand for grant of Statehood to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, keeping in view strategic, economic and other considerations, it is not proposed to alter the existing status of this island territory at this stage.

[English]

Detection of Human Skulls in Mumbai

88. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of human skulls found in Mumbai in January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of findings of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

White Paper on ISI Activities

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

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a white paper on the terrorist activities of ISI in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the States where ISI terrorism exist;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether any terrorist groups is receiving any help for terrorist activities from ISI;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken on the borders to check the infiltration of terrorists from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) A 'White Paper' is being prepared on the terrorist activities of Pak ISI in the country.

(c) and (d) Activities of Pak ISI have been noticed in J&K, Punjab, certain North-Eastern States and certain other parts of the country where modules of ISI have been unearthed from time to time.