

finer for: cruelty to children; employment of children for begging; giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to a child and exploitation of juvenile employees. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis by the Government to provide for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children and to check child abuse.

### Loans to SCs/STs

2126. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of interest leviable on the loans being extended to the persons belonging to SCs/STs from National SCs/STs Development Finance Corporation have been increased and the quantity of loan amount being presently extended in individual cases has been reduced;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Crimes in Delhi

2127. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the reasons for steep increase in crimes in Delhi is restrictions imposed by Delhi is restrictions imposed by Delhi Police on the issue of Arms Licences to the people for self defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ease the restrictions and issue licenses freely atleast to the Income Tax Payers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of applications received by the Government for arms licences for Revolvers and Pistols only in Delhi during the last three years and the number of licences sanctioned upto 31st January, 1999 ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) The arms licences are granted to the applications for self-defence after verification of their character and antecedents and genuineness of their claim. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to modify the existing procedures.

(e) The requisite information is given as under:—

Year	No. of Applications received	No. of arms licences sanctioned
1996	1620	537
1997	1850	707
1998	1839	887
1999 (Upto 31.1.99)	314	45

### Training by Pakistan

2128. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:  
SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BABA PATIL:  
SHRI ADITYANATH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people indulging in terrorist activities in the country are being trained by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pak youths are being trained to act as Sikh militants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Pakistani Intelligence agencies have established a number of training camps to provide training to militants in Pakistan/POK.