

(a) whether Government are aware that Nepal has recently purchased in a big way arms and ammunitions from China as reported in the national dailies of 29 March, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government has seen reports to this effect.

(b) The Government of India took up this matter with the previous Government of Nepal. It is the endeavour of the Government of India to seek a comprehensive understanding on all the outstanding issues with Nepal including our security concerns in spirit of friendship and co-operation.

[*Translation*]

Persons Arrested While Crossing Indian Borders From Pakistan

7224. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested during the last six months while crossing the Indian borders from Pakistan;

(b) the number of extremists and ordinary citizens out of them, separately; and

(c) the details of the weapons recovered from the arrested extremists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). 728 persons were intercepted by BSF during the period from October, 1989 to March 1990, while crossing the Indian borders from Pakistan. Of these, 7 persons were suspected to be extremists and 721 persons were other

miscreants.

(c) The following arms/ammunitions have been recovered from the persons suspected to be extremists:

AK-47 Rifle	:	2 Nos.
AK-74 Rifle	:	8 Nos.
Thomson Sub Machine Gun	:	2 Nos.
Pistol	:	7 Nos.
Revolver	:	2 Nos.
Hand-Grenade	:	32 Nos.
Magazine assorted	:	100 Nos.
Amn. assorted	:	4748 Rds.

[*English*]

Abolition of Visa System Between India and Maldives

7225. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by India and Maldives for abolishing of visa system between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Under an agreement signed on March 11, 1979, India and Maldives had agreed that citizens of either country may enter the territory of the other without obtaining a visa for a stay of up to 90 days. India had suspended the operation of this arrangement for some time due to various reasons. After the visit of EAM to Maldives in January, 1990, Govern-

ment agreed to restore the provisions of the agreement to enable citizens of Maldives to travel to India without obtaining a visa for a stay of up to 90 days.

CBI Enquiry Into Orders of CPC For Supply of Bags

7226. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has been asked by Government to probe into the orders placed by the Central Purchase Committee for supply of bags to some units belonging to four public enterprises companies and two cooperatives;

(b) if so, whether the CBI has conducted its enquiry; and

(c) the action taken against those held responsible?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). CBI is conducting verifications into the alleged irregularities/corruption in the purchase of jute and HDPE bags through the Central Purchase Committee. The enquiries in this respect are in progress.

Talks with T.N.V.

7227. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had any talks with representatives of Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) since November, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the last round of talks between Government and the TNV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). The Home Minister had talks with the representatives of TNV on 2.3.90. The position was also reviewed with TNV's representative Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl on 3.3.90. The TNV's representatives suggested steps for early restoration of land to tribals, arrangements for checking infiltration to be strengthened and Reserve Forests to be made available for settlement of Jhumia cultivators. A periodical review of the progress in implementation of the TNV Accord was also suggested. The State Government has been advised to pay attention to these items. A decision has also been taken to review the position regarding implementation of the TNV Accord from time to time.

Restoration of Sorting Sections in R.M.S.

7228. SHRI PREM PRADEEP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Communications has recommended restoration of sorting sections in R.M.S. to improve Postal Services, particularly in areas which do not fall on trunk routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Restoration of sorting sections over some selected routes suggested by the sub committee is under examination.