

29.10.91 to the Chief Ministers of State/Governors/Lt. Governors, seeking their views on the economic criteria which should be adopted for providing preference to the poorer sections amongst the Socially and Educationally Backward Sections of People who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation, while implementing the policy of reservation in civil services and posts under the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment.

The Supreme Court was informed on 31.10.91 that on receipt of the views of the State Governments/UT Administrations, it was proposed to convene a conference of Chief Ministers/Governors, Lt. Governors to discuss the issues further. Government also propose to hold consultations with leaders of political parties. The Court was further informed that after undertaking these consultations and evolving, if possible, a national consensus on this subject, Government would take a final decision on the economic criteria referred to in the Office Memorandum of 25.9.1991 pertaining to the subject.

Government had hoped to take a final decision in this regard by 26.1.92. However, it has not been possible to adhere to this time schedule because a number of replies are still awaited to the Prime Minister's letter of 29.10.91 in spite of several reminders issued to the detailing State Governments.

On this important issue, it is desirable to proceed with caution and after due deliberation, taking into account the views expressed by the State Government and Union Territory Administrations. Accordingly, the matter is being pursued with the State Government vigorously. It will be government's endeavour to evolve, if possible, a national consensus on the subject so as to promote social justice in an atmosphere of social harmony and peace.

Agricultural Engineering Colleges

*57. **SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:**
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased the state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Agricultural Engineering Colleges in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified so far, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JHAKAR): (a) to (c). Sir, there are 18 Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the country. These colleges are producing necessary manpower in the discipline of agricultural engineering. Government of India does not propose to open any new agricultural engineering colleges.

[English]

Infiltration of Terrorists

*58. **SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI:**
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of infiltration of terrorists into our territory after getting training in camps across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such infiltrators killed and surrendered separately and the arms