

country. We have a scheme to open 44 such schools during the year 1991-92.

[English]

SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: This year we are celebrating the Year of Social Justice in memory of great departed leader, Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. In view of this, whether the Government is going to set up any university or educational institution in memory of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Mr. Speakaer, Sir, there are several such schemes which would be launched on birth centenary celebration of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Lucknow University has been named after Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Besides, we have sent a scheme for the Scheduled Caste girls to the Planning Commission. As soon as we get the approval, those school would be named after Baba Saheb Ambedkar in his memory.

SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know what will be the minimum number of the children in the Central residential schools (Ashram Schools) and what special facilities will be given to them by the Government.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Each Ashram school will have about 8 classes and each class will have 35 to 45 students. Thus one school may have about 400 students in all. 44 schools are to be opened and in all there will be about 32000 students.

SHRI RATILAL VERMA: I would like to know what special facilities the Government will provide to them? (Interruptions).

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that 44 Ashram Schools would be opened for the Scheduled Tribes but no details have been given about those schools which would be opened for Sched-

uled Caste children. I want to know whether the Government propose to open schools for those Scheduled Castes who live in backward areas and where drop-out rate is very high. I want to know whether such schools would be opened for Scheduled Caste children also.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: I have said just now that we have sent a scheme for opening Ashram schools for Scheduled Caste girls to the Planning Commission and I hope that as soon as we get approval, schools will certainly be opened for them. I have also said that they will be dedicated to the memory of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 124 has been transferred. Question Number 125: Shri Mumtaz Ansari.

[English]

Rapid Action Force

125. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any decision to form the Rapid Action Force for handling communal riots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be formed; and

(d) the procedure to be followed for making recruitment to the force?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The force will have a composite character and it will be more officer-oriented than standard battalions of CRPF. Mem-

bers of the Force would possess specialised skills and they would be suitably equipped to tackle communal riots.

(c) The Force is likely to be operational by 1.7.92.

(d) The Force is being raised by re-grouping and re-constituting the existing personnel in CRPF.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: It has been stated by the hon. Minister that this rapid action force should be of composite nature. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what should be the percentage of minorities which could be inducted into such force. If it is a composite force, what will be the nature and character and the composition of the rapid action force?

Secondly, what type of training can be imparted to such force to make it more skilled and more secular and more prone to their own duties and whether fresh recruitment will be made to such force or not. If it is going to be raised through grouping or re-grouping or re-constituted out of CRPF battalions which are presently in existence, then how it will become a rapid action force and how it will be different from the old one and how it will be effective to tackle communal problems.

MR. SPEAKER: If you put so many questions, you may not get all the answers.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: About the first part of the question, actually after their duties in Punjab, they are going to be kept there for some time and thereafter CRPF companies which have been deployed there will be brought back and thereafter on a selective basis, a number of officers who are required for this kind of job, looking to the aptitude of the persons, we will select out of them and fill the vacancies by direct recruitment.

The hon. Member was asking about the percentage of the minorities. We pro-

pose to give representation, as far as possible—I cannot possibly tell you definitely—from all the regions. We will also keep a particular percentage of the minorities so that they may be able to get the confidence of the people and they will feel that they are not biased against any particular community.

On the training part, we are supposed to give them training in all aspects specially the psychological aspect and on the handling of the communal situation they should be basically believing in the secular character of the country so that they are able to do justice to every kind of situation and different kinds of platoons are going to be there where first-rate training will have to be given and fire-fighting training is to be given. The motive is going to be that they should not try to kill person but try to immobilise him as far as possible and how this can be brought about are the different ideas. Two months training is being prescribed and by the end of May, 1992, the entire training will be over and from 1-7-1992 it will be operational.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Just now the hon. Minister has said that upto now, no percentage has been earmarked or fixed. It is very much surprising that this Order was issued on 11th December, 1991 to constitute such rapid action force.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question. Please come to the question.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Upto now the hon. Minister has not formalised and finalised the procedure for recruitment or re-grouping.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: The hon. Minister must tell me what will be the percentage.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has

ready said that as far as possible it will be proportion to the population.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more is required. Please come to the question.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Roughly speaking, what will be the percentage of minorities?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is disallowed. The hon. Minister has already replied to the question. If you want to ask some other question, I will allow you.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: My next supplementary is what will be the location because location is also very important. Unless and until location is proper, it will not be available to the sensitive areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. What will be the location?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: We propose to create the battalion specially at communally sensitive areas.

SHRI SURESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: Sir, so far as recruitment to the Armed Forces, paramilitary forces, Police Forces is concerned, there is no discrimination between the various communities. People are selected according to the merits and qualifications required. Well, that is exactly the position. Anybody who merits selection, is selected. By providing any specific percentage or any particular community in a force either it is in respect of military force or paramilitary forces or the Rapid Action Force or the public force will it be constitutionally correct when no particular percentage has been provided in any other service for any particular community? Will it be appropriate to have such a paramount decision taken which can have its effect in all other services also?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Constitutionally, certainly there is nothing wrong. Regarding every community, every section of the soci-

ety if it were to get proper representation, we have not decided before-hand that this community will get so much. Merit is also one of the considerations. But the other consideration has also to be there that they have to evoke the confidence of the people whom they have to handle. So, this is also another very important criterion for recruiting them or for selecting them.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Our Armed Forces are considered as multi-religious in character. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it will be multi-regional also. If it is multi-regional, I have to point out one thing. Regarding recruitment to the various posts in the CRPF is concerned, I must point out that the representation to the North-Eastern States in the CRPF is not at all adequate. Will the Minister consider giving special attention to the recruitment of North-Eastern people in the Rapid Action Force?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Rapid Action Force is one thing. But if they are not already there in the CRPF, I cannot help it because this is a matter of selection from the CRPF. For matters of recruitment, it is going to be done against the vacancies which are going to arise. As far as the Rapid Action Force is concerned, the selection has to be made from out of the CRPF and certainly we will keep this idea in view that the North-Eastern Region is also represented.

Saarc Summit

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*126 SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the rope played by the Indian delegation during the recent SAARC Summit held at Colombo;

(b) the subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at during the Summit;