

**U.N. Convention on Steps to Check Torture**

1220. SHRI G.V. RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to U.N. Convention on steps to check torture appearing 'Newstime' 6 February, 1983 ;

(b) if so, details of this convention ; and

(c) whether India is a party to this convention and if so, whether any independent watchdog committee/organisation has been set up or proposed to ensure implementation of this humane convention ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on December 10, 1984 without a vote.

(b) The text of the Convention is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Convention was opened for signature, on February 4, 1985. The question of India signing the Convention is under active consideration.

The Convention provides for the establishment ; after its entry into force, of a Committee against Torture whose functions will include consideration of periodic reports by States Parties on measures they have taken to give effect to their undertakings under the Convention. The Committee shall consist of ten experts of high moral standing and recognised competence in the field of human rights. They shall serve in the Committee in their personal capacity.

**Racket in Lottery Business in India**

1221. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALLICK :

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in 'Statesman' dated February 20, 1985 regarding lottery business ;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into this so-called racket ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Lotteries are of two types, i.e. those organised by the Central Government and State Governments and those organised by private individuals/institutions etc. The lotteries in the letter category are in the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and are authorised by the State Governments.

The report published in the Statesman of the 20th February, 1985 relates mainly to the private lotteries.

Certain guidelines were issued in June, 1984 for the conduct of State Lotteries and the States were requested to keep in view guidelines meant for the State Governments and the Union Territory Administration have, by and large, adhered to the guidelines in so far as State Lotteries concerned. They have again