

(a) whether it is a fact that five hundred Pakistani trained extremists crossed over to India between August 18 and 25, 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the extremists have been armed by Pakistan with sten guns and mausers;

(c) the steps taken by Government to seal the border with Pakistan to check not only further infiltration but also the escape of the extremists to Pakistan after they commit crimes in India; and

(d) the steps taken to apprehend the extremists who have already crossed over to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) & (b). Government have no such report. However, interrogation of extremists so far arrested revealed that Pakistan has been arming them with stenguns, revolvers and grenades.

(c) & (d) Constant vigil is maintained by BSF and other security forces. Joint ambushes, raids and patrols with local police and other preventive agencies are organised by the BSF. Additional companies have been deployed by the BSF. Observation towers have been erected to watch movement of ex-filtrators/infiltrators. Screening and combing operations as also the requisite follow-up action are being taken by the concerned agencies to locate and apprehend the extremists who might have already crossed over to India.

Setting up of Seed Bank for Forestry

3455. SHRI SIMON TIGGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a seed bank for forestry;

(b) if so, details of the centres of that bank and names of the trees, seeds of which will be available at the bank; and

(c) steps being taken for nursery development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The seed requirements for forestry have not yet been fully assessed. Various details in this regard are being continuously studied. Existing institutions/infrastructure will be utilised as far as possible.

(b) The scope is still being explored and as such details of centres and species are not available.

(c) Decentralised nurseries are being promoted to help encourage people's movement for afforestation.

Setting up of Task Force

3456. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR ; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan for the institution of Task Forces for Economic Development has made any headway and the Forces have been set up;

(b) if so, the details about the Task Forces set up so far and a resume of their functioning;

(c) whether any more Task Forces are also being set up during the current and the subsequent years of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the outlines of the expansion programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ecological Task Forces on the pattern of Territorial Army are currently operational in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Task Force in Uttar Pradesh with a strength of 243 men has been in operation since January,