

tions of the situation in the North-Eastern Province, and expressed his concern at the slow pace of devolution of powers to the North-Eastern Provincial Council and the continuing internecine conflict among Tamil groups. Government approved him of the steps taken on these issues and the outcome of the discussions with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister.

### **Visit of External Affairs Minister to Iran**

587. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Proposed visit to Iran was called off recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). The Fifth Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission, at Ministerial level, was scheduled to take place in Tehran on January 29, 1990. The decision to defer the Joint Commission meeting was mutually arrived at by both sides, due to our preoccupation with the elections in India, and Iranian Government's preoccupation with the anniversary celebrations of the Islamic Revolution.

### **Sneaking of Pak based Terrorists into India**

588. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be Pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of top grade Pakistan based terrorists have crossed over to India during the past few months;

(b) the steps taken to defuse the activities of terrorists in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to arrest the terrorists and stop Pakistani terrorists from sneaking into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The steps taken to defuse the activities of the terrorists in the country, to arrest the terrorists and to stop them from sneaking into the country include raids on the hideouts of terrorists, intensified patrolling by police and para military forces in the affected areas, anti-infiltration measures such as border fencing, construction of more OP towers for BSF and provision of night vision devices to detect infiltrators.

### **Misuse of Places of Worship by Militants in Punjab**

589. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some militant groups in Punjab are again making use of places of worship as hideouts and for carrying out their operations; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) According to information received from the Government of Punjab no regular hideouts of terrorists in religious places have come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Migration of Minorities from Punjab**

590. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: