

establishment of additional pickets and intensification of search and cordoning off operations to nab militants. These measures, along with confidence building measures taken by the administration, have brought the situation under control and almost all the migrants have returned to their native places in the District Doda.

[English]

#### **Infiltration of Mercenaries**

714. SHRI PARASRAM  
BHARDWAJ:  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA  
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been large scale infiltration of Pakistan trained mercenaries into Doda and its Tehsil towns of Kishtwar and Bhaderwah from Ananatnag through the unmanned routes in Pir Panjal ranges during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to flush out the infiltrators and prevent the entry of militants into Doda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A number of Pakistan mercenaries have sneaked into District Doda through the passes in Peer Panjal ranges. While it is not possible to indicate the precise number of such mercenaries, on a rough estimate, about 200 such mercenaries could be present in the District. The number, however, keeps on changing, depending upon the militants strategy and pressure exerted by the security forces.

(c) Additional Army and Para Military forces have been deployed, patrolling in vulnerable areas has been increased and anti-militancy operations have been intensified.

#### **Prevention of Blindness**

715. PROF. UMMAREDDY  
VENKATESWARLU :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide 117.8 million US dollars concessional loan to India to prevent blindness;

(b) if so, the concessions that are likely to be provided under the loan;

(c) whether the World Bank has also agreed to provide the loan to the Non-Governmental organisations;

(d) if so, the amount allocated to such organisations and the State where these organisations are at present working in the country;

(e) whether any concrete programme has been prepared by the Government to utilise this loan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The loan has been provided @ 0.75% interest repayable in 35 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A project covering States of Uttar Pradesh, Anadhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 544.00 crores to be implemented over the period 1994-2000 has been approved by the Government for implementation with World Bank assistance.

### Exchange of Fire

716. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO  
GAIKWARD :  
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some heavy exchange of fire between the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles has taken place at Muhurichar along the International border in South Tripura during the last two months;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether any casualties have been reported;

(d) whether the Government have lodged a protest against such unprovoked firing;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (f). The Indian Flood Control workers were fired upon by the Bangladesh Rifles without protection on 26 June, 1994 when they were engaged in

flood protection measures on the Muhari river under Belonia Sub-division of South Tripura. The Border Security Force returned the fire in retaliation. There has been no casualty on the Indian side. Protest has been lodged by the Border Security Force with the Bangladesh Rifles.

### Activities of Punjab Police

717. SHRIMATI MALINI  
BHATTACHARYA :  
SHRI AMAL DATTA :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations received from the Government of West Bengal on the alleged intrusion of Punjab Police personnel in its territorial jurisdiction in the recent past;

(b) the measures taken following such representations;

(c) whether the Punjab Police have been granted special power to operate in any part of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to convene a meeting of the Inter-State Council to discuss the underlying issues; and

(f) if so, the likely time of convening such a meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A d. o. letter from Chief Minister, West Bengal and another letter from Home Secretary, West