

been drawn to the newsitem regarding infiltration of terrorists through Bangladesh and Nepal' appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 4, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken up the issue with the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal in this regard; and

(c) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India's Security-related concerns have been shared with the Governments of Nepal and Bangladesh. These security related concerns were highlighted in the discussions at the levels of the Home Secretary during his visits to Bangladesh and Nepal.

In the case of Bangladesh, a Joint Working Group has been set up to examine, in depth, all outstanding issues and to recommend practical measures for resolving them.

As far as the Indo-Nepal border is concerned, in view of terrorist activities, the Government has established an anti-terrorist checkpost near Sonauli in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh. Police Stations, outposts and immigration checkposts have been alerted to keep strict vigil. Border Security and Policing have also been tightened all along the Border. It has also been decided that a team of local Police/District Administration Officials of the border districts along the Indo-Nepal Border will meet every three months.

[English]

Kannada News Timings

1843. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan has changed its Kannada news timings consequent on the change in timings of Hindi and English news on National network;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain status-quo of the Kannada news timings in the interest of large section of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Kannada news bulletin telecast on Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore has been shifted from 7.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. in order to maintain uniformity with regional news bulletin telecast from other Doordarshan Kendras.

(c). There is no such proposal at present.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

1844. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop infrastructural facilities in the border areas in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction in different border States and particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is in operation in border blocks of States bordering Pakistan and Bangladesh to ensure balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near the border. Area specific schemes designed to take care of problems typical to border area, including development of infrastructural facilities, may be taken up under this programme.

Formulation of schemes is left to the concerned State Governments. Rajasthan Government is undertaking various schemes under BADP such as construction of roads, drinking water facilities, medical and health facilities veterinary hospitals, primary school buildings, panchayat buildings etc.

STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh

1845. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD, PCOs allotted in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending; and

(c) the number of new such PCOs proposed to be allotted in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

Import of Coal

1846. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal imported during each of the last two years and the current year, so far, grade-wise;

(b) the value thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to minimise such imports and to produce better quality of coal indigenously?