

Proselytisation Activities of Christian Missionaries

973. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government monitors the proselytising activities of Christian missionaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to prevent such conversions through fraud and coercion?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). According to Article 25 of the Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion. 'Public Order' is listed as Item No. 1 of List-II State List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such action for conversion from one religion to another religion through fraud and coercion is to be taken by the State Government.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in SCs/STs List

974. DR. K. D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a High Power Committed to propose the inclusion of certain communities in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have examined the said report; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) An Advisory Committee had been constituted to go into the various issues pertaining to the revision or modification of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 13.10.93. The Committee is no longer in existence.

(b) No, Sir

(c) to (g). Does not arise.

Patrolling in Coastal Areas

975. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government bear a part of the expenditure incurred on the joint patrolling in coastal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount claimed by the Government of Gujarat in this regard and the amount actually reimbursed to that State by the Union Government during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) to (c). A joint Coastal Patrolling involving Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and the State Police is in existence along the west coast along the coast of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. The Government of Gujarat had claimed from the Government of India the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the former on joint coastal patrolling in 1993-94 and 1994-95 under the coastal Surveillance Scheme amounting to Rs. 33.73 crores. After Processing the claims Government sanction for Rs. 458.89 lakhs on special financial assistance to the Government of Gujarat for financing the coastal Surveillance Scheme in 1993-94 and 1994-95 was issued in March, 1995. The State government has also sent a claim for Rs. 322.14 lakhs for the year 1995-96. The proposal is under examination.

11.07hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the clock

[English]

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

14.01 hrs

At This stage, Dr. Mumtaz Ansari and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

14.01½hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Eleventh Annual Report and Explanatory note of the Minorities Commission from 1st April, 1988 to 31st March 89 along with statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : I, on behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Minorities Commission for the period from 1st April 1988 to 31st March, 1989.