

Increase in Communal and Casteist Tendencies

144. SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increase in communal and casteist tensions in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to improve this state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Communal and caste tensions emanate from socio-economic and socio-cultural factors and culminate in various kinds of law and order situations. The Govt. of India have suggested to the State Governments various steps for dealing with caste and communal tensions.

The Govt. of India are committed to safeguard the rights of the minorities, providing equitable employment opportunities to them and ensuring their effective participation in all spheres of national life. The attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the need for remaining vigilant about various developing trends so that communal and caste tensions can be diffused at the first sign of their appearance.

The effective and timely control of communal disturbances will be the direct responsibility of the district administration and any failure on their part will promptly entail suitable action. Special measures will be taken to bring offenders to book speedily and deterrently.

A system of holding officer-level meetings with groups of States and similar meetings at the State-level with officers of communally sensitive districts to review the existing posi-

tion and measures required to achieve and promote communal harmony has been introduced. This will provide a system of continuous review and keep the subject of communal and caste tensions in focus. In addition, a comprehensive scheme of establishing Police Control Rooms in communally sensitive areas with a view to coordinating administrative arrangements has been taken in hand. The existing Intelligence machinery is also being geared up to collect advance information about any developing tensions and keep constant watch on disruptive elements. A Cell to devote specialised attention to the communal situation has also been established in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In respect of safeguarding the interests of weaker sections including the Sch. Castes/Sch. Tribes also, the Government of India have made various suggestions to the State Governments in the past. Some of the suggestions made are: that District Collectors and Superintendents of Police should be held directly responsible for taking prompt and effective action; in areas where atrocities on weaker sections have taken place, special Police squads should be set up to take prompt action against the offenders. It has been further suggested that special cells may be constituted at the State-level under the personal supervision of the Chief Minister to look into the grievances of Sch. Castes/Sch. Tribes and that suitable institutional arrangements should be made at the District-level to register complaints of harassment and other grievances of weaker sections and monitor on a regular basis the action taken on such complaints. Investigation of all grievances involving weaker sections whether or not caste considerations are suspected, should be prompt and adequately supervised and that the arms licenses of those reasonably suspected to be involved in atrocities should be suspended. It has also been suggested that special courts under the provisions of the Cr. P. C. and P.C.R. Act should be set up to bring quick justice and ensure punish-

ment to the offenders in cases of atrocities and denial of civil rights. The attention of the State Governments is being drawn again to these measures for suitable implementation.

The question of reactivation of the National Integration Council for dealing with tendencies that strike at the root of national solidarity is under consideration.

Shortage of Coir Fibre and Coir Yarn

145. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of coir fibre, and coir yarn, particularly in the Southern States; and

(b) if so, the efforts Government propose to make in this regard to make the availability of coir fibre and coir yarn in the small scale coir manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). Government have received representation regarding difficulties in coir fibre/yarn availability in the market. The matter is being examined in consultation with the Coir Board and the Government of Kerala.

Attacks made by Jerawas

146. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the 'Jerawas' made several attacks on villages, Bush Police Camp and Forest Camps in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during last three years up to date; if so, the details of such attacks;

(b) the total number of casualties during such attacks;

(c) how many Government servants on duty were killed and injured and whether Government granted any financial assistance to the victims and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the proposals to safeguard the lives and properties of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d). In the past three years, the Jerawas have not attacked any village, Bush Police Camps and Forest Camps in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, they attacked such individuals as entered their reserves for hunting or other purposes. The details of such incidents are as follows:—

Year	Incidents	Nos. killed	Nos. injured	Abducte
1977	4	7	1	..
1978	6	4	5	..
1979	1	1
1980 (to date)	3	2	2	1

In 1979 they also stole certain things such as clothes, cooking utensils and iron implements once each from the Bush Police Camp and Forest Camp.

2. Thus the total number of casualties to date is 14. Five each of those killed and injured and one abducted

person were Government servants. Benefits as admissible under rules to Government servants dying in harness are given. Rs. 250/- had also been sanctioned as immediate relief to the family of the abducted Government Servant. It has also been decided to allot a house site and give employ-