

[English]

Training to ULFA Militants in Bangladesh and Burma

*417. SHRI LOKANATH COUDHRY:
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ULFA and NSCN militants are being given training in Bangladesh and Burma;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken up this matter with the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware that ULFA and other militants are being given training in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of Bangladesh have categorically denied that ULFA and other militants are receiving training or other assistance in Bangladesh. Government of Myanmar conveyed to us that they were not giving training to Indian insurgents. However, Government of India are pursuing this matter with the Government of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Haj Pilgrimage

*418. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made

any special arrangements with Saudi Arabia to reserve accommodation for the Indian pilgrims going for Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely number of Indian Haj pilgrims during the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle other problems being faced by the Indian pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Arrangements are being made by the Haj Committee to reserve accommodation in Saudi Arabia for the Indian pilgrims for Haj 1992. A delegation will visit Saudi Arabia in early January to negotiate and finalize rent contracts. This will be followed by a Building Selection Team comprising of the representatives of various State Haj Committees; the team will select accommodation for our pilgrims in Makkah and Madina.

(c) About 24,000 Indian pilgrims are expected to proceed for Haj 1992 under arrangements made through Haj Committee.

(d) Apart from accommodation, arrangements are on hand to provide transportation and transit halts, medical care and Haj volunteers.

Steps to tackle other problems faced by the pilgrims include: special care of the elderly and infirm especially in the selection of accommodation; the pilgrims on arrival in Jeddah are received, helped in regard to immigration formalities and escorted to their lodging; and thereafter during the pilgrimage; a special monitoring system has been established so that any problem faced by any pilgrim is attended to urgently.