

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The terms of supply of an additional quantity of 200 tonnes of heavy water from the Soviet Union are under negotiation.

Examination of memorandum by an M.P. against Minister of Steel and Mines

574. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has since examined the Memorandum sent by a Member of Parliament against the present Minister of Steel and Mines and his reply thereto; and

(b) whether he proposes to lay a copy of both on the Table of the House and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). The Memorandum referred to in the Question is still under examination and it will not be in public interest to disclose its contents at this stage.

Harassment to Brides

575. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the numerous reports being published in the press about committing suicide by young brides on their own or being forced to do so by their in-laws for not bringing adequate dowry; and

(b) if so, what effective measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to eradicate this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of introducing urgently legislation in Parliament to replace the existing Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, so as to make it more effective, is under consideration of the Government. The legislation will *inter-alia* provide for increased penalties for offences under the Act which would be made cognizable for the limited purpose of investigation and will also seek to prevent extravagant expenditure and display of presents at marriages.

Supreme Court Directive regarding release of undertrials in States

576. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court on May 4, 1979 asked 4 more States to free undertrials who have been in jail for over six months without their trials having commenced;

(b) whether the Supreme Court had also earlier directed other States to free the undertrials kept in the States;

(c) in how many States the undertrials were put for more than six months; and the total number of such persons at present in different States;

(d) how many States have followed the directive of the Supreme Court; and

(e) what concrete steps Union Government are taking to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL) : (a). Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court have reportedly urged the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to agree to release all accused persons who have been in jail for over six months without their trial having commenced.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Information is available as on 1-1-79 or 27 States and Union Territories. According to this 15,434 persons were kept in jails for over 6 months in 23 different States and Union Territories.

(d) The information is being collected.

(e) The various steps that have been taken include the following :—

(1) Government of India convened on 9th April, 1979, a Conference of States' Chief Secretaries with a view to formulating concrete measures to deal with the problem of overcrowding in jails with specific reference to undertrial prisoners. The Conference *inter alia* recommended, the setting up of Review Committees at District and State levels to review cases of undertrial prisoners at regular periodicity;

the appointment of whole-time or part-time law officers in jails to provide legal aid to indigent prisoners, compliance by all law enforcing agencies of provisions of the Cr. P.C., 1973, in regard to the limitation on time for investigation and inquiry, etc. etc.

(2) As a result of the initiative taken by the Department of Justice and for the improvement of the judicial administration in the States, the VII Finance Commission have agreed to a provision of about Rs. 24 crores for the establishment of 402 criminal courts (299 lower criminal courts and 103 higher criminal courts) and 136 civil courts (111 lower civil courts and 25 higher civil courts) and the construction of buildings and residential accommodation for additional presiding officers.

(3) Certain proposals for the amendment of the Cr. P.C. and the IPC. including proposals made in the 78th Report of the law Commission for reducing the population of under trial prisoners in the jails have been referred to the State Governments for their views.

C.B.I. Inquiry into murder of Shri S. G. Murugaiyan

577. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received a memorandum submitted by the Thanjavur District Committee of the CPI demanding CBI enquiry into the murder of CPI Member of Parliament, Shri S. G. Murugaiyan who was representing Nagapattanam constituency ;

(b) whether a report in this connection which appeared in New Age Weekly, on February 4, 1979 has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what are the details and what are the action taken by the Government; and

(d) what are the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL).
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). In the memorandum dated 26th January, 1979 addressed to the Prime Minister, the Secretary District Council, CPI, Thanjavur, made allegations against the police authorities in the matter of investigation of the case and

demanding an inquiry into the murder case by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The case was charge sheeted on 6-2-79. The Magistrate committed the case to the Sessions Court on 13-3-79. As the case is now sub-judice, no further investigation or enquiry by the C.B.I. is legally permissible.

साम्प्रदायिक दंगे

578. श्री विजय कुमार महोबा :

श्री बी० एच० बनातवाला :

क्या गृह मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में गत छः महीनों में साम्प्रदायिक दंगों में राज्यवार मरने वालों और जखमी होने वालों की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) जान और माल की हानि का अनुमान क्या है ; और

(ग) इन साम्प्रदायिक दंगों को रोकने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री धनिक लाल मंडल): (क) 1-1-79 से 31-5-79 की अवधि के दौरान साम्प्रदायिक दंगों में 146 व्यक्ति मारे गए और 812 व्यक्ति जखमी हुए। इन आंकड़ों का राज्यवार विवरण संलग्न है।

1-6-79 से 30-5-79 की अवधि की सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ख) 1-1-79 से 30-6-79 की अवधि के दौरान 16.70 लाख रुपए मूल्य की सम्पति नष्ट हुई अथवा क्षतिग्रस्त हुई। 1-6-1979 से 30-6-1979 की अवधि और जमशेदपुर दंगों के दौरान संपत्ति को हुई क्षति की सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और सभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ग) उप प्रधान मंत्री (रक्षा) की अध्यक्षता में साम्प्रदायिक सदभाव पर एक उच्च अधिकांश प्राप्त समिति गठित की गई है। समिति की बैठकें कई बार हो चुकी हैं और जल्दी ही अपनी रिपोर्ट को प्रस्तुत करने की संभावना है। विभिन्न जांच आयोगों/राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् समिति और भारत सरकार द्वारा राज्यों संघ शासित क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को परिचालित किए गए विचार विमर्श के आधार पर किए गए विभिन्न निर्णयों/सुझावों के कार्यान्वयन का पता लगाने के लिए गृह मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के एक दल ने हाल ही में अनेक राज्यों का दौरा किया है।

इस विषय में प्रगति पर निगरानी रखने के लिए गृह मंत्रालय में एक मॉनिटरिंग एकक स्थापित किया गया है।