Communal Riots

534. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-KARA MURTHY: SHRI B V. DESAI: SHRI QAZI SALEEM: SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: SHRI NAVIN RAVANI; SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been large number of communal riots in the last three months in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether it is also reported in the press that conversion of Harijans into Muslims is one of the factors responsible for increasing communal riots in the country;

(d) if so, whether Union Government have taken a strong view and are planning various steps to stop this mass conversion of people; and

(e) if so, what are the steps and whether any foreign involvement is there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) According to available information, there were 71 communal incidents during the period from May to July, 1981. As compared to this, the number of communal incidents during the preceding three months from February to April, 1981 was 82, while during the period from May to July 1980, the number of communal incidents was 99.

(b) The communal incidents arose from a variety of causes such as a dispute over passage of a religious procession or other religious provocations, and many of them could be attributed to trivial reasons like a drunken brawl between members of two different communities.

(c) Government have no specific information in this regard.

(d) and (e). The State Governments are fully competent to take approriate legal action if any violation of law comes to notice. Government have no specific information about foreign involvement in the mass conversions.

Release of persons detained under National Security Act

535 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay statement showing;

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the persons detained under National Security Act were released by the IIIgh Courts/Advisory Committees:

(b) if so, the details of those released:

(c) the grounds on which they were released.

(d) whether it is a fact that some of them were rearrested immediately after their release; and

(e) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Atrocities on Harijans

536. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of places in various States of the country where assaults, loot, atrocities etc. against Harijans have taken place since January, 1980, stating the respective number of those killed, assaulted, burnt or houses looted; and

(b) the total number of Harijans converted to Islam or Christianity during the last one year including the names of places, the specific causes leading to conversion and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected from the States Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Communal riots since 1980

537. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR: SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of HOME AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of places in various States where communal riots have occurred since January, 1980 including the total number of those killed, assaulted, etc.

(b) what are the specific or general causes for the eruption of more violent of these riots; and

(c) what general or specific steps are being taken to prevent such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) According to available information, communal incidents occurred at 439 places during the period from January 1980 to July, 1981 in various parts of the country, resulting in the death of 523 persons and injuries to 4,293 persons.

(b) While provocations of a religious nature, controversies relating to observance of festivals, and disputes over land and property continued to be the major factors responsible for communal trouble, communal violence also occurred due to various other causes, some as trivial as a quarrel among boys over kite-flying, straying of a pig near a congregation assembled for Id prayers, dispute over grazing land, eve-teacing or a drunken brawl involving members of the two communities.

(c) As regards steps to check communal incidents, Government have made known their determination to deal sternly, promptly and effectively with any communal situation and its recurrence in future. Various steps to prevent communal incidents have been suggested to State Governments from time to time, such as upgrading the local intelligence network; establishment of Centralised Control Rooms: strengthening police deployments; more vigorous preventive actions against anti-social elements; stricter control over fire arms as also continued vigorous steps for unearthing illict arms and ammunition; special care to be taken at the time of important festivals and celebrations. Central Government has assured the State Governments of all help in communal violence. The containing provisions of the National Security Act, 1980 are available for taking preventive action against anti-social and anti-national elements. The National Integration Council has been re-constituted and held its meeting on the 12th November, 1980. The Council has constituted a sub-committee on communal harmony.

Issue of a black list of countries by I.L.O.

538. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Council of the International Labour Organisaion (ILO) had issued a blacklist