

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one lakh permanent technical posts of SCs and STs have been abolished in many States of the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh. 28 thousand workers have been thrown out of jobs by the Madhya Pradesh Government recently and it has caused hinderances in the employment generation process. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to which are the states in the country where vacant posts have been abolished during the last three years? Will the Government propose to take any action to collect data of vacant posts which have been illogically abolished and to revive these posts?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : The efforts will be made to compile such information...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister himself has admitted that one lakh sixty five thousand people are unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir whereas according to my knowledge, there are more than three lakh unemployed persons. The hon'ble Minister is also aware of the fact that among them, 70 thousand persons are technically qualified. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether it is appropriate to have so many unemployed persons in this sensitive state? Will the government propose to formulate some special scheme so as to remove unemployment among the technically qualified persons in Jammu & Kashmir.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are nation wide schemes for providing employment to the technically qualified unemployed persons and they can opt for them. In this way, these persons may be accommodated against the employment opportunities available in the country.

Strategy of ISI

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*584. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some arrests made in J&K have uncovered the strategy of Pakistani Intelligence using relay guides to provide safe passage to foreign militants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to thwart such strategies?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Pak ISI is adopting every possible means to infiltrate maximum foreign militants/mercenaries into J&K, including the use of

porters/Poniwalahs and local guides. Some militants apprehended in 1997-98, had disclosed about the groups of militants being handed over by the guide who had helped them to infiltrate subsequently handing them over to other guides for further movement. With a view to tackle the problem of militancy sponsored from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir and also to frustrate their attempts, the Government have adopted a multipronged approach, which among other things includes *inter-alia*, strengthening the border management to curb infiltration and exfiltration. Close vigil is kept by the Security Forces and intelligence agencies along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Intensive anti-militancy operations have been undertaken. The Security Forces/State Police have been redeployed at the strategic places.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well known that Pakistani Intelligence Agency ISI has been creating anarchy and instability in the entire country and it is not leaving anything undone to continue terrorism particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, I would like to know from the Home Minister through you that he has said several times that we will adopt pro-active policy in respect of Jammu and Kashmir. Whenever he has made this statement, everytime ISI killed innocent people mercilessly in Doda, Udhampur and Rajouri districts. He has said that he will launch a drive against ISI, strengthen the intelligence, seal the border, improve coordination with the states, formulate a definite action plan, adopt confidence building measures. He has said so many things several times. I would like to know as to what is the result thereof? The time since he has become the Home Minister and this Government had come into power, what have they done to keep a control on ISI and to check its activities as the common people have started feeling that we have totally failed in checking the activities of ISI in Jammu and Kashmir?

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What have you done during the last fifty years?

SHRI AJIT JOGI : We controlled terrorism during the last fifty years. And now you have again encouraged it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I got an opportunity to visit Jammu and Kashmir a few days back. I also visited Doda and Udhampur districts where ISI had played havoc. I also got an opportunity to visit Kashmir valley and to talk with officers there and the people too and here in Delhi also. The Government got many opportunities to think about Jammu and Kashmir. I am satisfied that this year, in 1998 a large number of foreign and Indian tourists

have visited this place after so many years. If one visits Pahalgam, Srinagar or Gulmarg, then he will find that the visiting of thousands of tourists is a result of our confidence building measures.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that all the cinema groups, film companies, which used to go there for shooting purposes, were not going there till last year and instead of going there, they used to go to Himachal Pradesh. But this time many film groups have gone there for shooting purposes. Somewhere there number was too high to get accommodation in the hotels. In spite of all this, this Government is not indifferent towards the activities of ISI because there are many soft targets and the House will be shocked and distressed to know that the news has come from Doda today morning itself that the terrorists have brutally killed eight Hindus including two women. But we are not silent over it. Anybody can do this anywhere. It happens in Delhi and Kashmir also, they have deliberately chosen such areas. They are doing so only to displace minorities from there. In this regard we have formulated a concerted scheme after the deliberations with governor, Chief Minister, D.G. Police, Director General of Para Military Forces, Defence Minister in details and action is being taken accordingly.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister has given a contradictory reply. I do not want to comment upon it. He himself has said that many persons have been brutally murdered in Doda today itself. It clearly shows that what they are saying and what they have done, is not giving any enthusiastic and positive results.

I would like to ask another supplementary question from you whether you are aware that ISI has set up 40 special transit points by establishing its solid base not only in India, but in Nepal also through which they send explosives and terrorists into India. Such activities are being undertaken in our neighbouring countries also. I would like to know from you whether you are taking any initiative to destroy or remove the ISI bases operating in these neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and other countries after contacting them and what are you discussing with the neighbouring countries at the international level and what are the results thereof?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : What the hon'ble member has said about the ISI encouraging extremism, violence and terrorism in India by increasing its activities through India and its other neighbouring countries, is right and we have continuously discussed this matter with Nepal and Bangladesh at the Government level. Both of these countries have assured us that they will provide full cooperation in checking the activities of such elements against our

country by using them as platform. But at the same time. I would also like to say that we do not want to destroy the ISI bases operating in Nepal and Bangladesh, instead we are focussing on the base network operating in India through which they want to create anarchy in the country. Two-three networks have been detected in the last one and a half month, through which a large number of arms and RDX have been seized. This is a major achievement and our focus and attention will be there.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to my constituency. I may also be given an opportunity to ask questions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The second name with me is of Mr. Reddy.

[English]

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on April 17th when the militants had killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir, the Home Minister said that he was going to have an Action Plan and was going to implement it. Now, he could not say anything about it. I would like to know whether the said Action Plan was ready or not and when it is going to be implemented.

Sir, secondly, I would like to know whether the Home Minister has urged upon the hon. Prime Minister — when there is a proposal of the Prime Minister to meet his Pakistani counterpart in the SAARC meeting — to ask Pakistan to stop their anti-India campaign and stop terrorism. It is then only we can think of improving our relationship with Pakistan.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The Action Plan against ISI sponsored terrorism and violence is a continuing matter. It has been decided at a high level meeting — in all there had been three meetings in which all those concerned with the execution of the Plan participated - to have a course of action.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned I would like to submit that the Prime Minister when he meets his counterpart from Pakistan...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Have you urged upon him to raise it? Have you brought this aspect to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The Prime Minister is aware of the whole situation in the country. It would be up to him what issues to raise with the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Home Minister has said that

according to my assessment, militancy has increased a lot in Jammu region, particularly in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda. I don't know whether the hon'ble Home Minister has got the information through his channels that our security forces have controlled and contained militancy in Jammu and Kashmir to a large extent, that's why Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held there.

But this time their militancy has reactivated in J&K again and you know its reasons. As you have just said that many pilgrims went to Amarnath Yatra. I would like to state that Amarnath Yatra is taking place for the last four-five years. My assessment is that militancy is increasing rapidly in J&K and there is increasing alienation among the people. I don't think it proper to tell everything in this House but I would like to ask where is your Chief Minister now-a-days, there is no response from the administration, no feedback is available as to what is happening there, no work is being done, nobody is there to listen to it? I would like to state in the House that the Home Minister is not telling the whole position deliberately and not giving the whole information. Nobody knows what is the role of Government there. What they are doing there and alienation is increasing among people. Today the position is that Rajouri and Poonch districts, which were earlier under the control of the Government, are now under the control of militants. You are not giving the entire information here. It is an important question before nation. Therefore, hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the information which hon'ble Home Minister gives to the House is not correct. The information which they get from the intelligence administration... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send the reply to him.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Investigation into the Uphaar Cinema Tragedy

*585. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some head-way has been made in the investigation into the causes of Uphaar Cinema in Delhi fire accident and such other fires in high-rise buildings during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether the hospital authorities are geared to tackle such cases in future who failed in the case of Uphaar Cinema fire?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The investigation of the fire accident in Uphaar Cinema on 13.6.97, in which 59 person died and about 100 were injured, was entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 23.7.97. The investigation has since been completed. The CBI have reported that the fire started from the Delhi Vidyut Board transformer installed on the ground floor of Uphaar Cinema building on account of loose connections. There was also fire in the same transformer in the morning of that day which was not properly repaired by Delhi Vidyut Board officials. On account of leakage of oil from the transformer, the fire spread to the cars parked in the adjacent car parking area resulting in burning of various items and emission of hot and poisonous gases which spread from the ground floor of the cinema hall. The investigation also revealed various structural and fire safety deviations in Uphaar Cinema building.

After completion of the investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet on 15.11.97 against 16 persons. The court of metropolitan magistrate took cognizance of the offences on 19.1.98 and the accused appeared in the Court on 17.2.98. The case is now under trial and the next date of hearing is 10.8.98.

During the last 3 years, there have been 3 serious fire accidents in high rise buildings: in Express Building on 7.6.96; in Chanderlok Building on 17.6.97 and in Scope Complex on 2.10.97.

The fire in the Express Building was reportedly caused by an electric short-circuit. M/s. Express Newspaper Ltd. have reported that, after the fire incident, a fire control room has been provided in the building which is manned round-the-clock by trained fire-men. Moreover, the Express Building has been offered on 9.7.98 to Delhi Fire Service for inspection after completing the work relating to fire prevention and safety measures.

After the fire incident in Chanderlok Building, a Committee was constituted to *inter alia* evaluate the existing safety measures in all the 11 NDMC building and prepare an action plan to remove deficiencies and inadequacies. So far, NDMC has obtained NOCs from fire safety point of view in respect of 2 building, viz., Chanderlok Building and Mayur Bhavan. The works relating to fire prevention and fire safety measures have been planned to complete in the remaining 9 building within 6 months.