

[Translation]

Reservation to SCs/STs

1567. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States in the country have demanded increase in the ceiling of fifty percent fixed by the Supreme Court regarding reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details of those States and the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has directed to do away with reservation available to Dalits (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) in promotions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Killings of Minorities

1568 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pak-militants struck in selective killings of minorities, including women and children in villages of Doda and Udhampur districts;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in pursuance of the revised policy of taking pro-active action in place of reactive ones; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the militancy in J&K has since been curbed as a result of these steps?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir, there have been some such incidents.

(b) Government have adopted a multipronged approach to tackle the militancy problem sponsored from across the border in J&K, which includes *inter-alia* strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes, deepening the democratic process etc.

(c) Due to sustained pressure, vigil and concerted actions of security forces and the State administration, the number of incidents has decreased in the State and particularly in the Valley. There has been significant improvement in the situation. However, militants continue to get all kinds of help from Pak ISI to sustain the violence in J&K.

Ban on Molasses

1569. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to impose control over molasses and industrial Alcohol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Molasses Control Order, 1961 and the Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control) Order, 1991 were rescinded in 1993 as a part of the liberalisation process. There is no plan to reimpose controls.

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Essential Medicines in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

1570. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the essential medicines and syringes/needles are not available to the patients in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the patients are undue harassed to buy such essential medicines and other items from the open market;