

would like to know whether the same instruction has been sent, and whether the same is being implemented in the case of State Governments and public sector undertakings.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Not just my Ministry, but the Department of Personnel and Training has regularly sent out instructions to all PSUs and to all the States. Performance varies from State to State. In some States, there may be a position that they have not employed physically handicapped or other disabled persons for a long time... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, many hon. Members want to raise supplementaries on this question. I understand the importance of the question. If the hon. Minister has no objection, I can allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : All right.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I will allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

Extremist Attacks on People in Tripura

*223. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the number of extremist attacks on innocent people in Tripura and some other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed due to such attacks during the current year;

(d) whether the withdrawal of central forces on a large scale from Tripura has created uncertainty and insecurity of the people;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government are considering restoration of army battalions deployed in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) There has been an increase in incidents of extremist related violence in Assam and Tripura. Available information in regard to such incidents in the North-Eastern States during the years 1997 and 1998 is given below :-

| States | 1997 | | 1998 (upto December 2) | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Incidents | Civilians Killed | Incidents | Civilians Killed |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 34 | 9 | 71 | 2 |
| Assam | 427 | 285 | 676 | 463 |
| Manipur | 320 | 233 | 235 | 79 |
| Meghalaya | 14 | 3 | 13 | 5 |
| Mizoram | 1 | — | — | — |
| Nagaland | 380 | 92 | 186 | 25 |
| Tripura | 303 | 205 | 519 | 200 |

(d) to (f) The levels of deployment of Central forces in various parts of the country, inter alia, depend upon the overall security scenario as well as the availability of such forces. The situation is kept under constant review. Central forces have been deployed in Tripura to curb insurgency and maintain public order. The Central Government is fully alive to the security situation in the State.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement that has been given by the hon. Minister, it is seen that the incidents are the highest in Tripura and Assam. Compared to the population of Tripura, incidents are very high. Though the hon. Minister has stated that the Central forces have been deployed in Tripura to curb insurgency, to maintain public order and the Central Government is fully alive to the security situation in the State, I would like to know, how many army battalions were granted to the Government of Tripura to meet the situation and how many battalions are now stationed in Tripura.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, the hon. Member must be aware that insofar as the deployment of the Army is concerned, it is not the practice to make statements in the House so far as the deployment of number of Army battalions or Army companies are concerned. I would have no objection in sharing with the House the fact that so far as the para-military forces are concerned, today in Tripura, there are, in all, 111 companies of the para-military forces, out of this, 45 are the BSF companies, which are on the border. Their duty is not related to counter insurgency.

They are managing the borders, whereas it is 66 companies of the CRPF which are deployed for counter-insurgency and anti-militancy activities. It is the highest ever. In fact, we have had to stretch our resources to the maximum. But I must confess to you that the Government of Tripura has been pleading for greater deployment and we have been in touch both with the MPs of Tripura as

well as the Chief Minister. We have also been in touch with the senior leaders of the parties and the Army which, for certain tactical reasons, had to withdraw some of its contingents. But we are alive to the situation and, as I have admitted, it is in these two States, Assam and Tripura, there has been an increase in incidents and casualties. In the other States of North-East, it has come down. In fact, in four of the eight North-Eastern States, the situation is relatively peaceful.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I would like to know the same details regarding Assam. I would not ask about Army now since he cannot say that. But I would like to know about the BSF and the other forces which have been deployed there. How many battalions are there, what is their demand and how could the Minister meet it?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, in Assam, the number of CRPF companies is 153, and BSF is 50, out of which 30 are deployed on the border.

SHRI T. GAVINDAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. The statement of the Minister is very brief and it is avoiding many facts. The question is exclusively regarding Tripura. The statement says very clearly that the incidents are increasing day-by-day. The Government of Tripura repeatedly requested for strengthening the forces, but the Minister did not mention about it here. Out of seven companies deployed there, two companies were withdrawn from that State while the State Government has been repeatedly requesting for strengthening the forces. I would like to know why these companies were withdrawn.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, I have already mentioned that there has been some withdrawal of the Army companies and that is for tactical reasons. We have been in touch with them also conveying to them the desire of the State Government that more and more deployment is needed. After all, the State has been facing insurgency, a low-key insurgency, for nearly 18 years. It has been growing and, today, there are, in all, about 20 armed tribal groups donning different names which have been indulging in some kind of violence, though, of course, two of them, the ATTF and the ADLFT, are responsible for the majority of killings and have some ideological moorings also.

But, as I said, so far as the Army is concerned, it is for them to decide. I am in touch even with the Army Chief as well as the Defence Minister and I would like to see that the problems of Tripura are met properly.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the North States, different battalions of army and para military forces such as C.R.P.F., B.S.F. and local police have been deployed. Sometime back when the Standing Committee visited there it found that there was no co-ordination between them. I want to know from the hon. Minister

whether there is any proposal to constitute a Coordination Committee for proper coordination between these agencies so that they could work properly?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Coordination work is primarily done by the State Governments. But if State Government want to the Central Government should coordinate then Central Government can definitely take responsibility of coordination. Otherwise where there are elected State Governments, they take the responsibility. Regarding Tripura I can say that they want a fool proof solution to this problem. However, so far as the deployment is concerned, effective deployment, which should have been there, perhaps is not taking place and, therefore, I will keep in mind the observation of the hon'ble Member.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, extremism is growing in South-Eastern India.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : You are saying about North-East India or South-East India?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I am saying about North-East India. Growing extremism in that part of the country's really a matter of concern for all of us. These States have a population of just 7-8 lakh and 44 thousand personnel of the para-military forces are deployed there. Even then there is no control over extremism. For the last one and half years the Government of India has ordered cease fire with N.S.C.N. extremist organisation and according to my information the period and area of this cease fire is being extended; it is being extended to whole of India. According to my information this extremist organisation is increasing its activities slowly in all States of North-East India. Second problem is that para military forces which are sent by Government of India to these States to improve law and order situation and to fight extremism are being used by the local administration in the work of personal security of local politicians, people's representatives and bureaucrats whereas this work should be assigned to civil police. Therefore, para military forces are unable to perform their duty of providing security to common masses. I want to know from the hon'ble Home Minister as to what initiative the Government is taking to deal with other reasons for rise in extremism as the same cannot be tackled by para-military forces only? Secondly, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to ensure that the para-military forces are used for the purpose for which they are deployed?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : There is substance in what the hon'ble member has said and we hold talks from time to time with State Governments on this subject and tell them that para military forces should be mainly used for border security or counter insurgency operations. If I give you the figures of Central para military forces, in all 349 companies are there. Of them, some are for V.I.P. security but their number is not much. 13 companies are for security of installations. 34 companies are for escorts etc. We give

suggestions to them that minimum use of para-military forces should be made for such work. That work is not meant for them to do. It would be better if this work is primarily done by the State police.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of our experience in Punjab, we have given directions to all those States and their Chief Ministers, D.G. police etc., that whenever we got success against extremism, military and para military forces have played supplementary role. Mainly if this role is played by the local police then we get success because they know this problem better. These broad guidelines are given to them. But the Central Government is quite aware of the points raised by the hon. Member and the attention of the State Governments has been drawn to them.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has already committed and stated that he is having a shortage in utilising the military forces, para-military forces and other forces. He has also mentioned that law and order is the issue of the State Government. I do not disagree over there. But I would like to tell the hon. Minister that insurgency is a matter which will remain in this country and everyone has to live with it. At the disposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are no forces except the BSF which, looking into the kind of training they have got, they are not meant for insurgency purposes.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to seriously look into the factor which has been looked into, namely, starting a new organisation whose whole or sole purpose would be maintaining integrity of this country and having a national force whose main objective is to deal with this kind of situation which has arisen and which we have been facing in the North-Eastern and other States? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to think in these terms rather than using the military forces which are meant for other purposes.

Sir, the military action is one action in which there is no result, where we cannot put a stop to it and it is a temporary phenomenon. May I know from the hon. Minister that to have a permanent solution, at what level are they dealing with this issue? The message that is coming is that there is a link between these extremists and the Myanmar Government over there and some kind of training and education links have today been established. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he thinks about it.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : I do not agree with the hon. Member when he says that the paramilitary forces are not trained for the job. There is intensive training provided to them. It is not merely the BSF which contributes to supplementing the State forces or the Army, but it is the

CRPF, ITBP and Home Guards also, though Home Guards are not included in the paramilitary forces. This is certainly true that the requirement of the country, because of the changing situation in the last fifteen years, has been considerably more than it was contemplated 15-20 years back. I would agree to this.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : But the military has always rescinded to what they have been asked to do.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : In this regard, we would like to see that so far as internal security problems are concerned, they are dealt with more and more without the assistance of the Army and the Police. The paramilitary forces are able to deal with them. It is true that the law and order is a State subject but national internal security is the responsibility of the Centre to which we are very much alive.

I would keep in mind the other observation made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, would the hon. Home Minister agree that after the two battalions of Army and Assam Rifles have been withdrawn from Tripura, the situation has gone from bad to worse? Out of 44 police station areas in the State, 22 police station areas under the disturbed area. Five other police station areas have also been declared as the disturbed areas. The Army, the Assam Rifles, the CRPF and all other security forces have been deployed sector-wise. These two battalions have been withdrawn and since then, some of the sectors are completely without any protection.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Sir, I belong to Tripura and this problem relates to my State also.

I would like to know whether the hon. Home Minister agrees that the issue is the induction of additional forces to Tripura to combat the insurgency as these insurgents are having sophisticated arms in their hands, and whether the hon. Home Minister would immediately deploy additional forces there.

Sir, seven battalions of additional forces are required, according to the assessment of the professional authorities. I would like to know whether he agrees to this demand of seven battalions which are to be deployed there to immediately control the situation and fight insurgency.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Let there be no such impression that the Armed Forces have been withdrawn from Tripura. There has been some withdrawal. You have mentioned two battalions. You have mentioned some dates. I would

not like to break the practice of not mentioning the quantum of Armed Forces. On this, I can only say that our Ministry is in contact with the Defence Ministry, trying to impress upon them the need to see that these withdrawn battalions are sent back. Apart from that, we have advised Tripura Government to raise what we call the 'India Reserve Battalions'. One of them has already passed out. The second one, that has been sanctioned for Tripura, is in the process of raising. This is another device we have resorted to. Half the expenditure is borne by the Centre in these cases.

Further, we have also decided that even though law and order may be a State subject certain items security-related expenditure which come upon the States because of insurgency problems, because of the problems of militancy are borne by the Centre. This is the manner in which the Centre has tried to assist the States in dealing with his problem.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Sir, I have another supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

Pay Scales of Doctors

*224. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Convention of Doctors in Government Services has demanded that Doctors in all States be given pay scales at par with officers belonging to the IAS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether there is a demand to create a new cadre called Indian Medical and Health Services;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) According to a copy of the resolution obtained from the Indian Medical Association, the National Convention of Service Doctors has inter alia demanded uniformity of Pay and perks for all service doctors in the country; uniformity of promotional avenues for service doctors with central cadre; constitution of an Indian Medical and Health Service; sanction of uniform non-practising allowances; system to provide in-service training; banning of quackery; proper security against physical assault; and involvement of doctors in the Health Programmes. As 'Health' is a subject under the 'State List', actions in this regard are to be taken by respective Governments.

(c) to (e) The creation of an Indian Health and Medical Service has been considered by the Government in the past when 5 States accepted the proposal, 4 States gave conditional approval, 5 States did not accept the proposal and a number of States did not offer their comments. A consensus among the States is yet to emerge.

SHRI. A. C. JOS : Sir, the reply is that health is a State subject and the centre becomes helpless. When you look into the national picture, health management in this country is in a total disarray. Everyday the newspaper carry one strike of nurses in one place and in another State, doctors will be striking work. Everyday that is the problem, especially in Delhi. Now, the answer is that a consensus is yet to emerge.

May a request the hon. Minister and ask the hon. Minister ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask a question and not request the Minister.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, may I ask the Central Government to call a meeting of the Health Ministers of the State Governments, emerge a national programme regarding health management and come to a consensus in this matter?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, I thank the hon. Member. I fully agree with the suggestion of the hon. Member. In fact, the Health Ministry as such do not have any disagreement with this type of suggestions. In fact, we are for that. The Sarkaria Commission had recommended that, and again the Pay Commission had also recommended that. But these recommendations are mainly considered by the Department of Personnel and Training. Anyway, we are going for the Central Council of Health Ministers' Conference by the turn of the next year. In January, we are going to have that meeting. In fact, we are proposing this as a subject and we will see that everything possible is done.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, the best of the doctors, not only in North America but also in other countries, are born in India, studied in India, got degrees in India and they have become the best doctors there. That means, the best of our talents is going away from this country to different places.

That is why the doctors' convention had urged and everyone also would agree that apart from the fact that whether it is a State subject or not, the State Administration is a State subject but we have a Central cadre by which we allot IAS Officers to each State to work there so that the best talents can be attracted.

I ask the hon. Minister that he should consider why we should not have a Central cadre of professional doctors so that better talents can be attracted and they could be deployed suitably. The Thiruvanthapuram Sri Chitra