

have been delegated powers to grant long term Yoga Visa to foreigners desirous of coming to India for study of yoga and vedic culture at recognised institutions.

[*English*]

Assistance by Pakistan to Terrorists

3700. SHRI ADITYANATH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan is providing assistance to different terrorist outfits in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to adopt a proactive policy instead of reactive policy for fighting against terrorism; and

(c) the response of the Government of Pakistan to Prime Minister's warning given on the Independence Day on August 15, 1998 to take all possible steps to "Root out terrorism supported and abetted by elements from across the border" indicating the frequency and intensity of militancy related incidents and activities sponsored by Pak-ISI and other such elements?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have at every available opportunity, strongly taken up with the Government of Pakistan its active role in the instigation and sponsorship of terrorism against India and demanded that this must cease forthwith. During the meetings of the Foreign Secretaries hold in Islamabad in October 1998 and of the Home Secretaries of the two countries in New Delhi on 12 November, 1998 as a part of the composite dialogue process, Government handed over to Pakistan detailed and irrefutable evidence regarding its role in fomenting terrorism against India and demanded that this should stop forthwith. In addition, Government have taken several steps which include border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of nakas as well as movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

(c) Pakistan has not ceased its sponsorship of terrorism against India.

[*Translation*]

Minority Financial Corporation

3701. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released budgetary funds to the State Minority Financial Corporation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not releasing the budgetary funds to Uttar Pradesh Minority Financial Corporation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMAT MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The funds are released by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation to the State Minority Finance Corporation and not by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The disbursement of loan under the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation's loan schemes was temporarily stalled in Uttar Pradesh from September, 1997 on account of poor quality of utilisation of funds and non payment of funds disbursed to them during the earlier years. However, financing to Uttar Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation has since been resumed and an amount of Rs. 96.00 lakh has been disbursed on 9th December, 1998.

[*English*]

Abolition of Levy System in Sugar Industry

3702. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish levy system in sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not allowing sugar industry to compete the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The High Powered Committee