

Visits of Bangladeshi Citizens

*287. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the restrictions on the visits of Bangladeshi citizens to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also considered the possibility of entry of terrorists, militants and smugglers in the country after the removal of such restrictions; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check such an entry?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government for lifting any of the existing restrictions on the visits of Bangladeshi nationals to India.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Seminar on Safer Cities

*288. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Seminar on Safer cities has adopted a multi pronged action plan for creation of safer, healthier, greener and sustainable cities;

(b) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been suggested therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the seminar are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment had organised a National Seminar on "Safer Cities" in Vigyan Bhavan on October 5-6, 1998 to coincide with

the World Habitate Day celebrations. Important issues pertaining to the reflection of the growing concern about escalating urban violence and insecurity among citizens around the world were deliberated in four technology sessions which considered the following sub themes:

* EVOLUTION OF SAFER CITIES

Recommendations by this group relate to decongestion of cities, mitigation of population growth provision of safe water and sanitation, safer traffic conditions controlling environment pollution etc.

* URBAN SAFETY AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

These relate to empowerment of women and children through education, skill upgradation and financial assistance for self-employment, health care and nutrition for women and children, rehabilitation of women and children displaced by projects etc.

This group also deliberated on the issue of barrier free access to built environment for disabled and elderly persons.

* HAZARDS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

This group deliberated on the need for a technological regime to ensure safety of buildings from fire.

* URBAN POVERTY, VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Considering the nexus between poverty and crime, the group deliberated on the need to involve community based organisations and women groups in creating social awareness towards the need for community development in a big way. Community development includes social and economic integration, safe land tenure to slum dwellers, education, economic development, controlling crimes and various other measures.

(d) The various recommendations of the Seminar have already been sent to all the State Governments and concerned Ministries/Departments and other agencies of the Government for taking appropriate action at their end.

(e) No specific time limit can be indicated for such policy matters on which action by so many agencies is involved. Necessary action has already been initiated by the Government on many important recommendations directly concerning it.