

[Translation]

Looting of Passengers

5016. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers of Varanasi-Kurla Holiday Express were looted at Satna (M.P.) on 25.4.98;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into this incident?

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Details of individual incidents of crime are not maintained at the Central level. Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. A separate organisation, known as the Government Railway Police (GRP), exists in the State to deal with crimes committed on trains and at Railway Stations.

[English]

Functioning of Foreign Intelligence Agencies

5017. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign intelligence Agencies are functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the countries involved in anti-national activities; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of those agencies?

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

(b) Pakistani ISI has a concerted design to revive terrorism in Punjab and intensify militancy in Kashmir. It has also been instrumental in master-minding incidents of explosions in Delhi and elsewhere in buses, trains and other public places to cause panic. The investigation into the bomb blasts in Mumbai (Feb 27, 1998) has revealed that the explosions were caused by militants trained and motivated by Pak ISI. The arrest of 12 persons (including 04 Pak nationals) in July, 1998 at Hyderabad uncovered the existence of an elaborate hub-and spoke network that has been established by the ISI under the banner of the Lashkar-e-taiba network.

(c) Pakistan.

(d) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youth for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas (checkposts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

5018. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that shortage of essential life saving drugs have been reported many times in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such medicines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure easy availability of essential life saving drugs in the country?