

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister in a statement in both the Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, inter alia, that after his visit to Nagaland and other North-Eastern States, the Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements had been reiterated and that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1st August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions.

Reorganisation of Delhi and U.P

946. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the area of Uttar Pradesh proposed to be merged in Delhi State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) No such proposal for reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh by merging any area of Uttar Pradesh in Delhi is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Infiltration

947. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of people infiltrate into the country every year;

(b) whether any annual survey is conducted or statement is prepared regarding the infiltration;

(c) whether any measures has been taken to reduce the burden due to arrival of infiltrators on the increasing population of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In view of the long land borders with neighbouring countries and due to various pull and push factors, infiltration into the country is an on-going problem. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of infiltrators because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities. A regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

(c) and (d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to detect and deport illegal migrants who manage to come into India. These include, inter alia, creation of special posts under PIF/MTF Schemes in States on Indo-Bangladesh borders, amendment of IMDT Act in 1988 and IMDT Rules in 1997 to facilitate detection and deportation of illegal migrants in Assam, developing of an understanding with Bangladesh for handing over of illegal migrants etc. The progress of action taken is reviewed at various levels from time to time.

[*English*]

Robberies in Kerala Express

948. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of robberies in the Kerala Express during the last one year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such robberies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (G.R.P) which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information relating to train-wise robberies is not maintained by the Central Government.

Conference of Governors

949. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two days Conference of Governors, Chief Ministers and other national political parties was held in June, 1997 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the consensus arrived at the Conference; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) A Conference of Governors was held on 2nd and 3rd June, 1997 at which the leaders of political parties were also invited. The main theme of the Conference was "The Role of the Constitutional Head, when, following an election, no party or combination of parties appears to have secured a majority."

In the Conference, the leaders of major political parties and other participants shared their views on the complexities inherent in the situation forming the theme of the Conference. It is felt that the Conference may well have succeeded in initiating and enlarging a wider process of appreciation and assessment of the subject. This will lead to a more informed out-look all around. In turn, this will make the working of the Constitution in certain problematic situations smoother and more transparent.

The Government proposes to continue the dialogue on this and other subjects which strengthen our democratic polity.

[Translation]

Patenting of Botanical and Animal Species

950. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has rich abundance of 45 thousand botanical species and 95 thousand animal species but out of them 10 per cent species have been got patent by the foreign agencies in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) In India while quantification of the abundance in botanical, and Zoological species may not be possible, so far over 49,000 plant species and 81,000 animal species have been identified and described by the Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India respectively. The Government has not received any information/complaint about patenting of 10 per cent of species thus identified.

[English]

Fast Track Power Project

951. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) carried out any Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of fast track power project in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise,

(c) the reaction of the Government to the findings/ observations of NEERI; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the environmental guidelines are followed while executing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has not carried out any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of fast track power projects in different parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The stipulations laid down in the environmental clearance letter are regularly monitored by the Regional Offices of the Ministry, the Central Pollution Control Board and the respective State Pollution Control Boards for their implementation.

Chief Minister's Conference

952. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Ministers' Conference was held in New Delhi on 24 May, 1997 to discuss on providing effective and responsible administration;

(b) if so, the opinion expressed by different Chief Ministers;

(c) whether any resolution was adopted to revitalise the administration and to reform the public services;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the action plan formulated, if any, to adopt and implement those resolutions?