

**Espionage Activities**

968. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is recently a spurt in the espionage activities by some new recruits in the intelligence wing of the Border Security Force for Pakistan intelligence agencies in the Jaisalmer region of the Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen our counter-espionage service so as to have a check on such type of anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) There is no spurt of espionage activities by BSF personnel. However, one Constable of BSF posted in Jaisalmer was apprehended on April 6, 1997 by Rajasthan police as his name figured during interrogation of suspects. The case is under investigation.

(c) All possible steps are being taken to combat and frustrate the designs of anti-national elements by sensitising and gearing-up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and by co-ordinated action by all concerned Central and State Agencies.

[*Translation*]

**Uttarakhand State**

969. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have studied the proposal sent by Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding creation of a separate Uttarakhand State;

(b) if so, the view of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal to call a meeting of elected representatives to discuss this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has decided in favour of the establishment of a separate State of Uttarakhand comprising the nine hill districts of the Revenue Divisions of Kumaon and Garhwal of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Bill in this regard will be referred to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon. Keeping in view the legal and administrative complexities involved in the issue, it would not be possible to lay down a definite time frame in the matter.

**Crops Damaged by Pollution**

970. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution in India is posing danger not only to the human life but it has affected some crops as well due to which the production of these crops has declined up to 40 per cent;

(b) if so, the crops affected by air pollution as per the research conducted in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in giving due attention to this issue?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Air pollution may cause adverse impacts on human health and plants. Studies carried out on effect of air pollution on plants have indicated that the productivity and yield of certain crops located around the pollution sources are affected. However, no conclusive data on the extent of damage caused to the crops is available. Some of the crops affected by air pollution include wheat, soyabean, maize, rice etc.

(c) The steps taken by the Government include the following:—

1. Standards for brick kilns have been prescribed for particulate emissions and for stack height.
2. Ambient air quality standards have been notified. A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up.

3. Effluent and emission standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.
4. Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment within stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
5. Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
6. 17 categories of highly polluting industries have been identified for priority action.
7. A scheme on common effluent treatment plants for clusters of small scale industries has been taken up.
8. Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries has been taken up.
9. More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and have come into effect from April, 1996.
10. Unleaded petrol has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from 1.4.1995. The same will be effective in all other capitals of States/UTs and other major cities with effect from 31.12.1998 and for the entire country with effect from 1.4.2000.
11. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel vehicles have been notified.
12. Environmental epidemiological studies in identified critically polluted areas have been initiated.

[English]

#### **Konkan Statutory Development Board**

971. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of Konkan Statutory Development Board is received by the Government from the Government of Maharashtra for approval; and

(b) if so, the decision taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Government's stand in the matter is that if the existing Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra, which includes Konkan, is not in a position to effectively cater to the developmental requirements of the Konkan region over the period of next couple of years and the Government is convinced that the area could be developed better if it is placed under a separate Development Board, then the matter of

creation of a separate Development Board for Konkan can be considered.

#### **Recruitment in Para Military Forces**

972. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :  
SHRI P. NAMGYAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons from Jammu & Kashmir who have been recruited in various para-military forces during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till date, year-wise;

(b) whether surrendered militants have been rehabilitated by way of recruitments in the forces during the said period, separately; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Number of persons recruited from Jammu & Kashmir in various Para Military Forces is shown below:—

Name of the Force	Year	
	1996-97	1997-98
BSF	252	258
CRPF	69	377
ITBP	20	10
CISF	57	51
Assam Rifles	96	—

(b) and (c) Government have sanctioned raising of one BSF Bn. and one CRPF Bn. from Jammu & Kashmir. Recruitment is in progress.

[Translation]

#### **Wheat Spoiled and Unfit for Human Consumption**

973. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1996-97 lakhs of tonnes of wheat has got spoiled and has become unfit for consumption due to the negligence of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;