

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Tunnel by Pakistani Smugglers

3931. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani smugglers have constructed any long tunnel in the Indian territory this year;

(b) if so, the length and width of the tunnel;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to counter such activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. On 23.1.1998, a 228 feet long tunnel of 2 feet diameter was detected by BSF troops near B.P. No. 59/3 and 59/4 near Ajnala, Amritsar. The area is full of sarkanda plants and the tunnel was dug underneath the fencing from Pakistan side but the same was detected before the mouth of tunnel on Indian side could be opened. An extensive search of the entire area was carried out. Special operations by day and night, have been carried out to detect such activities and the troops have been briefed to remain extra vigilant so as to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

Appointment of Contractors

3932. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that security staff in Ministries and limited companies is appointed through contractors on large scale and the contractors are paying only 50% of the total salary received from Ministries and companies to the employees;

(b) whether there is any proposal to stop such practice;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check such exploitation of labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Economic Package to Assam

3933. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for a special Economic package for development of areas of Barpeta in Assam for Agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the amount demanded for this economic package; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Welfare of Handicapped and Destitute Children

3934. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government disburses money to Non-Government Institutions for the welfare of people;

(b) if so, the Scheme-wise details of the amount disbursed during 1996-97 in each State;

(c) the details of schemes run for handicapped and destitute children; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to prevent corruptions in the Non-Government institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Statements showing amounts released to Non-Governmental Organisations during 1996-97. State-wise, for implementation of various schemes, including schemes for handicapped and street children are attached as Statements I to IX.

(d) A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is approved for grant-in-aid under the schemes of the Ministry on the basis of an inspection carried out by the State Government official and recommended by the concerned Department of the State Government.

The inspection report from the State Government and/or Central/State agencies once a year is also necessary before the second instalment of grant is released to Non-Governmental Organisations.