

workers under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund including maternity benefit.

[Translation]

Terrorist Activities in J & K

4077. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has drawn to the newsitem captioned "Ab Poonch Va Doda mein 10 Hinduon ki hatya itne hi ka agharan, Poonch mein hinsa ke bad Sena ka flag march, curfew" appearing in the 'Danik Jagran' dated May 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government also aware of the bomb explosion occurred in school bus in Southern Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have evaluated the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such killings in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government have seen the news report. 9 persons of a certain Community including four VDC members and a J&K constable were killed on May 4th and 5th in district Doda. There were reports of 10 persons missing in this incident, however, later all the missing persons returned to their home. In an another incident on May 5th and 6th in Surankot town, distt. Poonch, militants attacked the house of one Retd. Forest Officer and killed 4 persons. The incident at Surankot resulted in tension in Poonch town which necessitated the calling out of Army.

(c) and (d) On 1st May, 1998, an explosion took place in an Army School Bus near Bus Stand, Sopian in District Pulwama, due to which three persons and three school children sustained injuries. Damage was also caused to the bus.

(e) and (f) The Security situation in the State is constantly reviewed by the Unified HQ and the Government. The State Government is taking all necessary steps to contain the arc of violence through sustained operations by the State Police and Security Forces including intensive patrolling, surveillance on the border/LOC to check infiltration/exfiltration, anti-terrorist combing operations, strengthening of intelligence network

and coordination among various agencies. Village Defence Committees are also being constituted.

[English]

Tapti Gas to Pipavav Project

4078. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1100 on 2.6.98 and state :

(a) whether the Government have made a commitment to the Government of Gujarat to allocate Tapti Gas to the Pipavav Gas Based Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entire gas from Tapti Field has been diverted to HBJ pipeline;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to fulfil the commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti Fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar Fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid & South Tapti Fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate and Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid & South Tapti Fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system. The Government of Gujarat have been advised accordingly.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Neglected Widows

4079. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
KUMARI KIM GANGTE :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of neglected widows, helpless abandoned women and aged people suffering from economic hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help those widows and aged people, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide economic protections and pension to all such people under the policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Amarnath Yatra

4080. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims visited Amarnath during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that during yatra, pilgrims face a lot of problems because of inadequate basic facilities;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any financial assistance is provided to the pilgrims of Amarnath by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the break-up of Financial Assistance provided to these pilgrims during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The number of pilgrims, who had visited Amarnath during the last 3 years is as follow

1995:	60,000
1996:	1,20,000
1997:	79,035

(b) and (c) Following the tragedy during the Yatra in 1996, the Sengupta committee had recommended a number of steps/measures for providing additional safety/facilities to the Amarnath pilgrims in future. These recommendations were forwarded to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir as arrangements for the Yatra including provision of basic facilities for the Yatris is the

responsibility of the State Government for smooth journey of the Yatris include assistance for transportation from Jammu to Pahalgam, provision of accommodation through tents with beddings as well as shelter-sheds; provision of eatables at concessional rates and establishment of langars by voluntary organisations, drinking water; establishment of medical camps with doctors and para-medical staff detailed for duty; supply of fuel, firewood and essential commodities like rice, sugar, atta, rubber shoes etc. at Government controlled rates and arrangement of generator power supply. The arrangements also include upgradation of tracks, STD/ISD/PCO facilities at all stations, periodical weather forecasts disseminated further through Doordarshan, All India Radio etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

AIDS and Leprosy Centres

4081. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of AIDS and Leprosy eradication centres are in operation in different parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra, State-wise;

(b) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released to each of these centres by the Government during each of the last two years;

(c) whether any free treatment is being given by these centres to the patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Statement I & II showing the number of AIDS Surveillance Centres and Leprosy Eradication Centres in different part of the country are enclosed.

(b) Financial assistance to the AIDS Surveillance Centres is channelised through the State Governments. The State-Wise break-up of allocation of funds under National AIDS Control Programme is given in the attached statement III & IV.

(c) and (d) Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, all the districts of the country including Maharashtra State have been provided drugs for multi drug therapy for providing free treatment to Leprosy patients. Under the on going National AIDS Control