

(b) Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 2, July 22, August 13, and August 29, 1997 respectively relate to review of seniority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who on account of reservation policy are granted promotion in priority to their senior general candidates; Introduction of post-based roster; withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matters of reservation in promotion; continuation of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs beyond 15.11.1997 and ceiling of 50% on total reservation for all categories.

(c) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before issue of Office Memoranda dated July 2 and August 13, 1997 and was not consulted in the case of other Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 22 and August 29, 1997.

(d) None of the Office Memoranda has been issued at the initiative of the Government.

(e) to (g) Details of objections raised by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the reaction of this Government are contained in the Special Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Welfare.

Illegal Trafficking of Women

1212. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government has sought assistance from India to stop illegal trafficking of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether both the countries have discussed the issue and any final strategy formulated to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The problem of illegal trafficking of women and children has been discussed between the Government of India and Bangladesh. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb the trafficking in women and children and have underlined the need to take appropriate measures by involving the civil administration and the local police. The matter was also discussed with Bangladesh and other SAARC member countries at the IX SAARC summit at Male when it was decided to examine the feasibility of establishing a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in women and children for prostitution.

Earthquake Victims in Afghanistan

1213. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had offered substantial relief for Afghan earthquake victims of February this year;

(b) the extent of devastations caused in terms of loss of life and property caused by the earthquakes; and

(c) the details of relief provided by Government for the quake-victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India sent 17 tonnes of relief supplies. These included medicines, woollen blankets, rice and tea.

(b) According to a UN report, 4868 persons died in the earthquake and 720 sustained injuries; in all 31,610 persons were affected. While there was extensive loss of property no estimates are available.

CBI and CVC

1214. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp/restructure the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert body has been constituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new set up of CBI and CVC is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors (reported in) (1998) 1 SSC 226 has given wide-ranging directions which relate to the structure and functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation as well as the Central Vigilance Commission. The Government has decided to implement the judgement.

(b) The directions concerning the CBI/CVC contained in the judgement delivered on 18.12.1997 in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors are given in the attached Statement.

(c) to (e) The Independent Review Committee was constituted by the Government in September, 1997 *inter alia* to examine the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate and to suggest the changes, if any, needed to ensure, among other things, that offences alleged to have been committed by any person, particularly those in position of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and