

[English]

Grants to Voluntary Organisations for Tribal Women

*39. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether grants are being released in time to the voluntary organisation running education centres for the tribal women in the States and particularly in U.P.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide grants in time;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from some voluntary organisations to increase the amounts of grant-in-aid and for making the payment once in a year; 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 placed on the table of the House.

Extortion of Money by Mafia Gangs

*40. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mafia gangs are involved in extortion of money from traders, professionals and industrialists in the country, particularly in Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to check this menace;

(d) whether the Government propose to amend the Cr. P.C. to provide deterrent punishment for these crimes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) The Central Government is aware

of the existence of gangs operating in various parts of the country, particularly in metropolitan cities, and engaged in extortion and other organised crimes. According to available information, these gangs indulge in pilferage of imported goods lying in docks/storage, smuggling of gold and other contraband, drug trafficking, Hawala racket and getting cuts for setting land and living premises disputes.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under the Constitution of India. Accordingly prevention of crime as well as investigation and detection of crime are the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, however, extends financial assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure. The Central Government also shares intelligence with the State Governments and sends them advisories from time to time.

The offences relating to extortion are punishable under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (Chapter XVII). There is, however, no proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code in this regard.

Sarkaria Commission

231. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a recommendation by Sarkaria Commission that Governors may be appointed in consultation with the respective States; and

(b) if so, whether the recent appointment of Governors by the Government have been made in accordance with the recommendations made by Sarkaria Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The Sarkaria Commission has recommended that in order to ensure effective consultation with the State Chief Minister in the selection of a person to be appointed as Governor, the procedure of consultation should be prescribed in the Constitution itself by suitably amending article 155.

(b) Even as the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission relating to the office of Governor are being deliberated upon, the State Governments are invariably taken into confidence while making appointments of Governors.

Expansion of Visakhapatnam Refinery Project

232. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: