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(a) whether the Union Government have recently sent any study teams to Bihar to assess the law and order problems in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of reports submitted by the study teams; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) A Central Team had visited Bihar from February 1 to 3, 1999 to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation following the massacre of 22 persons at Shankarbigha Tola, PS Mehandia, District Jehanabad. The Team observed that the situation was still tense and the possibility of such carnages could not be ruled out unless a multi-faceted approach was adopted to tackle the ongoing violence.

After assessing, *inter alia*, the law and order situation in the State, Bihar has been placed under President's rule by invoking the provisions of article 356 of the Constitution of India with effect from 12.2.1999. Steps are being taken to contain the situation prevailing on account of the activities of various senas/extremist groups, etc.

Rehabilitation Package for Surrendered Extremists

2086. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any rehabilitation package for the surrendered extremists of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the rehabilitation package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of militants in the North East is under active consideration of the Government. It is proposed to implement the scheme shortly.

Nagarpalika in Scheduled Areas

2087. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legislation for extending the provisions of the 74th Amendment Act to Scheduled Areas have been prepared;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the name of the states and the Union Territories which have not given their comments so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The reason for delay in bringing the necessary legislations for extension of 74th Amendment Act to Scheduled Areas is the non-receipt of comments from some of the States having Scheduled Areas on the report of the Committee set up by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and employment in the matter.

(c) and (d) There are eight States having Scheduled Areas. A copy of the report of the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment on extending the provisions of the constitution (74th Amendment) Act to Scheduled Areas was forwarded to these States for comments. Comments from five States have since been received and the remaining three States viz. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are yet to respond. The matter has been taken up at the level of Chief Ministers for early submission of comments of these three states.

DPEP in North East States

2088. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Primary Education Programme funded by the World Bank has been implemented in all the North Eastern States except Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to provide funds for implementing this project in the said States?