

(a) whether the atrocities on the minority community are on the rise in the country at present due to which some of the Western countries are reluctant to enter into trade and cooperation with India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) During the year 1998 and in January/February 1999, there had been some attacks on Christians and their institutions in some parts of the country. However, there is no information about reluctance on the part of some Western Countries to enter into trade and cooperation with India as a result of these incidents.

(b) Does not arise. *Terrorism*

**Narcotic Smuggling and Insurgent Movements in North-East States**

1929. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:  
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether intelligence reports suggest that there are links between narcotic smuggling and insurgent movements in the North-east;

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

(c) whether Pakistan is involved in training the terrorists or helping drug smugglers; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures taken by the State Governments and the Union Government in this regard?

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

**Funds for Handicapped** *Disabled Persons 81-82*

1930. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons in the country for the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the total amount spent out of it so far; and

(c) the total amount un-utilised at present with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 954.33 crores has been allocated for the various schemes pertaining to welfare of handicapped persons.

(b) An amount of Rs. 140.04 crores has been spent upto 26.2.99.

(c) The balance amount is to be utilised during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan.

**Housing loan to Individuals by HUDCO** *Loan to Individuals 82*

1931. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has taken a policy decision to provide liberal housing loan to individuals on subsidized rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the operations of the programme has been started;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be operated;

(e) whether HUDCO has started its Housing/commercial complexes in National Capital Region Territory; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made therein as on date, Project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HUDCO is starting a scheme or providing housing loans to individuals on competitive interest rates as per the loan-interest slabs given below:

Loan amount (Rs.)	Interest Rate p.a. (%)
1	2
0 — 25,000	11.50
25,001—70,000	12.00
70,001—1,50,000	13.50