

as the Report of the Committee of the Secretaries is submitted, like all others they will also get all the benefits such as the Family Pension.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The regularisation of erstwhile employees of Akbar Hotel has been delayed. There is a decision to hand over this building to ITDC. When will this building be returned to ITDC, what will happen to these employees, are fresh appointments, being given to those erstwhile employees, what about their pay-scales and the continuity of their past services and will the past services of the employees who have been retired or are retiring, be taken into consideration for their retirement benefits?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, a letter has come from the Ministry of Tourism for handing over the Akbar Hotel to them. We are considering the matter, and as soon as suitable alternative accommodation is available, we will hand over the hotel premises back to the ITDC. As to the problem of giving retirement benefits for past service, we will give all the benefits to the 126—odd employees from the date of their joining the Ministry of External Affairs.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Because they might have given all the benefits of retirement to the tune of Rs. 36 lakhs.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Retrenchment or retirement benefits? There is a difference between retirement and retrenchment.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Re-

trenchment benefits. We will give all the benefits to the employees from the date on which their services were taken over by the Ministry of External Affairs under the law.

Territories Plan to Paralyse Village Defence Organisation in Punjab

*208. **SHRI YADVENDRA DATT:**
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports about territories plan to paralyse village defence organisation set up by the Punjab administration; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Terrorists, of late, have resorted to attacks on security officials and members of Village Defence Committees in the border districts.

(b) The State Government is fully alive to the situation and appropriate action is being taken to thwart the designs of terrorists and to instil confidence among the villagers.

[*English*]

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I would like to know the number of attacks made on the village defence committee people in the Punjab where you have started the defence committees.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Such

incidents have taken place at 73 places.

[*English*]

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Have you armed these committees properly for defence purposes and may I ask what sort of weapons have been given to them? Further, how are you going to maintain the morale of this committee when there had been attacks regularly by the terrorists with modern weapons.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: In so far as the attention of arming is concerned, this step has been taken to best their morale. Alongwith this, 5 to 7 S.P. Os, each one comprising of 15-20 persons, also have been trained.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: What type of weapons have been given to them?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: These weapons include D.D.B.L., S.B.B.L. Rifle, stengun, S.L.R., 12 bore gun etc. About 643 villages have been covered under this scheme. Particularly the most sensitive areas have been included in it and 3494 weapons have been provided to the individuals.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: What about Tarn Taran?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Tarn Taran is also included.

[*Translation*]

As many as 3494 weapons have been given to individuals. This has boosted up their morale to great extent. There have also been incidents in which the villagers challenged the terrorists, nabbed them and

handed them over to the police. So much so that even the village women made the terrorists unconscious by pelting stones on them. As such, we have chalked out District Action Plans to boost up their morale. Steps have been taken to involve village people in these action plans.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, it is very unfortunate that whenever the Home Ministry to answer questions, the Home Minister is never here. Last time, when the Question Hour was over... (*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is also the Minister of Home Affairs. There is no difficulty in it. You may ask a concrete question, you will get the reply...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Please do not indulge in talks among yourselves.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, the Minister has said that they have taken certain steps to raise the morals of the SPOs. I would like to know from him whether he is aware of the fact that at least one hundred SPOs have resigned and gone home, and also whether he will consider arming them with AK-47 rifles or with superior weapons as compared to what he has just mentioned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no such information that 100 persons have resigned and gone home. People work in various services at different places and they may resign their jobs on one ground or the other. But one thing is certain

that various steps taken by the Government have weakened the morale of the terrorists. I feel proud to say that it has boosted the morale of not only the villagers but also that of the police. They are challenging the terrorists. As such, there is no such thing.

Secondly, it is the policy of the Government to combat the terrorists by people's power and not by AK-47 rifles. We are solving the Punjab problem on these lines.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I fully agree with the Minister. It is a right step in the right direction and these arms have helped the people in their self-protection. But the Minister has given a mixture of arms—SBBL, DBBL and SLR. I do agree that giving AK-47 rifles is not possible, but out of nine thousand and odd villages, they have identified only 636. May I know how fast they are going to introduce the same assistance in other areas of Punjab so that the self-defence of the people and the involvement of the people of counter the terrorists can be further strengthened?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated there are 42 sensitive police stations in Punjab which have been selected for this purpose. The number of villages so far selected by us is 643. 75 more villages are to be included in this list. All these villages come under these 42 police stations. They are being supplied the sophisticated weapons of their choice. Weapons are being supplied in conformity with the requirement of different areas. As I have said, we have drawn district action plans so as to ensure people's involvement in the operation. Under the above action plan, the district authorities are convening the meetings of Sarpanches who are the elected representatives of people at the

Panchayat level and at the district level. These meetings are being convened by the District Magistrates. These meetings are also organised at the village level. People have been participating in a very large number in these meetings. It has instilled confidence amount them. People are coming on the platform openly and speaking against the Government as well as the terrorists. People are commending this action of the Government. It has accelerated the pace of development and people's involvement in the process and made the police administration fully effective and increased developmental activities of the district administration. In every district, aid to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs each are being sanctioned to each Panchayat for development works and ensure people's participation in the process. In this way, what I feel is that it will boost up their morale.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has presented a picture of moral boosting that terrorists should be challenged by taking the people into confidence. On the other hand, when the Sarpanches, Ward Members and members of the Village Defence Committee meet the police officers and plead for the release of an innocent person who has been arrested by the police, the police officers misbehave with them. In these circumstances how can you win the confidence of the people and receive strong support for them. Will the hon. Minister of Home Affairs issue suitable instructions to the police so that they would listen to the arguments being made by Sarpanches and release the innocent people on their guarantee.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with Shri Kirpal Singh's views that when Sarpanches come to police stations, due attention should be paid to their requests and they should be assured that their complaints are being looked

into. Police should take action on their complaints.

This is my view and this is what I want to say.

SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Sir, how many items the hon. Minister of state for Home Affairs has gone to Punjab to boost the morale of the people in Punjab and how many more times he proposes to go there.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure my hon. friend that when I go there I shall take him with me.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister narrated an incident tell us as to how some women in a village nabbed the terrorists and be at them up. I would like to request in this connection that interviews of such women should come on the television so that morale of more and more people all over the country could be boosted up. Please let me know if there is any such scheme with the Government? Secondly, I would like to submit that there have been incidents in which women were severely tortured by terrorists. I feel that such incidents should be brought to the notice of more and more people through the media. With this we can create an impression in the minds of the people about the outrageous activities of the terrorists.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it has been suggested by the hon. lady Member, steps will be taken to prepare out T.V. programmes on the line of the suggestions given by her with a view to appreciate and honour the people who have been braving the terrorists in Punjab.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the points made by the hon. Minister in reply to the question are not absolutely correct.

Punjab is the neighbouring state of Haryana. We know how bad is the situation in the areas. During the last 87 months, a sizeable number of officers and men of the police have been killed. Not only the police personnel but also a large number of B.S.F. and Army personnel have been killed there. Everyday, at least 20 to 25 people are being killed there. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state as to how many police and many personnel have been killed during the last 8 months and the number of those killed during the preceding 8 months and what is the difference between these two figures.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing like this. One thing I must say that during the past few days terrorist attacks on police and para-military forces have increased. During January, 1990, 126 persons and 23 police personnel were killed by the terrorists. The number of terrorists killed during January is 53. In February, 95 persons and 21 police personnel were killed by the terrorists. The number of terrorists killed during this month is 77. In March this year, 178 persons and 26 police personnel were killed. The toll of terrorists during this month was 120. In April, 70 persons and 20 police personnel were killed. The number of terrorists killed in that month is 202. In May, 195 persons and 13 police personnel were killed by the terrorists. 216 terrorists were killed during this month. In June, 173 persons and 23 police personnel were killed by the terrorists. 183 terrorists were killed during this month.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: How many people were killed during the corresponding months in the year last year?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.