

(a) whether in the recent spate of violent anti-national activities in the State of Jammu & Kashmir evidence about involvement of foreign agencies has been found;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the issue of such involvement has been taken up with the Governments of those countries; and

(d) if so, when and at which level and with what outcome?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). The issue of Pakistan's involvement in the terrorist activities directed against India by way of encouraging anti-national elements and providing sanctuary and logistic support to them has been conveyed to Pakistan from time to time at various levels with considerable concern.

The matter was also discussed at the Indo-Pakistan Home Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in May, 1989. The Government of Pakistan maintains that it does not provide support to terrorist activities directed against India. We, however, continue to find evidence of terrorists receiving support from sources in Pakistan.

Telephone Operators on Daily Wages

*199. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of workers, particularly telephone operators, have been working on daily wages since long;

(b) the number of employees working on daily wages as telephone operators;

(c) since when they are working; and

(d) whether Government propose to

confirm them in the same post and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Telephone Operators have not been working on daily wages, but on hourly basis. However, a number of casual labourers have been working on daily wages since long.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Indo-French Agreement on a New French Aircraft Carrier Design

*200. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with France for a new French aircraft carrier design has been signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding its use and the extent to which it will meet the requirement of Indian Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) to (c). A contract has been signed with M/s. SOFMA of France for the Concept Design Study of a Sea Control Ship in accordance with the Staff Requirements of the Indian Navy. Further details cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

Punishment for Using Sub-Standard Material in Production of Arms and Ammunition

*201. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: