

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the telecommunication system in the affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). Serious disruptions have been reported from some parts of West Bengal and coastal districts of Orissa and in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

The rainy season is still continuing in these areas. The damage caused to the telecommunication system due to rains, flood and cyclone cannot be estimated at this stage.

Necessary steps have been taken to restore communication by arranging the required materials, like poles, wires, brackets, insulators.

In the flood and cyclone prone areas, the department has plans to replace open wire lines by small capacity radio systems. Manufacture of these equipments is being taken up by some companies in the Joint Sector and Public Sector.

[*Translation*]

#### **Pak Help to Terrorists**

\*98. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is still training and supplying arms to terrorists operating on Indian soil;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government

to take up this matter with the Government of Pakistan;

(c) whether India and Pakistan have agreed during Indo-Pak talks in May, 1989 for joint surveillance on the border to check terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling and illegal border crossing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter of Pakistan's involvement with the terrorists operating in Punjab has been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan on several occasions. Recently, during the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Islamabad in December, 1988, in connection with the SAARC Summit, the Prime Minister of Pakistan assured that for harmonious bilateral relations Pakistan was committed to the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

During Home Secretary level talks held in May, 1989 both India and Pakistan agreed to take the following concrete measures to contain terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling and illicit border crossing along the borders of the two countries:

#### **(I) Cooperative Arrangements Between the Two Border Security Forces**

- (i) The Director General Pakistan Rangers and the Inspectors General, BSF, Punjab and Rajasthan shall biannually review the implementation of the agreed measures of cooperation with special focus on their efficacy in regard to combating trans-border crimes,

in addition to the work relating to the maintenance of boundary pillars. During their meetings, they may also agree on such measures including meetings at intermediary level, as may be conducive to improve cooperation between the two Border Security Forces.

- (ii) The Border Security Forces shall undertake simultaneous coordinated patrolling along the India-Pakistan border and the Patrols shall be briefed and de-briefed jointly. The concerned officials from the two Border Security Forces will meet in June, 1989 to finalise the modalities and implementation of this arrangement.

(II) To Combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling

- (i) Coverage of information to be exchanged between the two countries should be widened to include organisation, powers, functions and addresses of enforcement informant agencies, training material, equipment, legislation, the regarding seizures and other related matters, including modus operandi, routes followed etc.
- (ii) There was merit in taking steps for harmonisation of laws against drug trafficking so that drug traffickers, in order to avoid harsher pun-

ishment in one country, do not flee to or operate from the other country.

- (iii) There was need for intensifying enforcement of drug laws for interception/interdiction of the drug traffic on both sides and for mounting a special vigil against their trans-border movement.

(III) Cooperative Arrangements to Deal with Fugitives from Law etc.

- (i) The Interpol Chiefs and their representatives in both countries should have greater interaction at personal level including fresh periodic meetings.
- (ii) The FIA in Pakistan and CBI in India, acting as the nodal agencies and in concert with other appropriate agencies in their respective countries, should take appropriate action in tracing out and arranging to hand over to the other countries wanted and absconding criminals. The modalities of actions in this regard is to be worked out by the FIA and the CBI representatives through discussion with- in the next three months.
- (iii) The concerned agencies should act in close cooperation in neutralization of organised gangs and touts indulging in infiltration of large groups of people in pursuit of employment etc. -in each other's country.