

(a) whether Government have ascertained further findings as a result of the investigations conducted by the Canadian authorities ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some Indians indulging in terrorist activities received training in the "Eagle Combat and Body-Guard Training School" operating in Canada ; and

(c) whether such persons have been identified and if so, the details about them and the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The Canadian Government have informed us that concerned Canadian agencies have completed their detailed investigation. The findings of these investigations will be made available to the Government of India as soon as their report is finalised.

(b) and (c) Government of India have conveyed their concern to the Canadian Government at the possibility of those trained in the Roy Maia school indulging in terrorist activities directed against India and have requested information of the personal particulars of those who have been trained in the Roy Maia School. The response of the Canadian authorities in this regard is awaited.

[*Translation*]

Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs

*258. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps at international level so far to control trafficking in narcotic drugs ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the U. K. or any other country has made any offer to the Government of India to take joint initiative to control trafficking in narcotic drugs ; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Government is in constant touch with international bodies such as the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs, ICPO/INTERPOL Heads of National Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies, etc., with a view to evolving adequate measures to control, while in transit, the trafficking in narcotic drugs.

(b) Indian has been closely cooperating with international agencies not only in regard to quick transmission of information on smugglers, but also on the preparation of a draft Convention on Illicit Traffic of drugs. India will also be participating in the Ministerial level International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking scheduled to be held in 1987 in Vienna.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Provision of Adequate Funds for Hill Area Development Programme

*259. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Special Regional Development Programme, Union Government have made provision of adequate funds for drinking water, roads, education, fuel and fodder for Hill Area Development Programme, whereas no provision has been made for these items under the Desert Development Programme ;

(b) whether these problems of desert areas are similar to those of hill areas and to some extent more acute ; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to increase the amount of Rs. 245 crores provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan for Desert Development Programme and also include the aforesaid items keeping in view the area and population there as compared to that of hill areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Provision for water, roads, education etc. in the desert areas are made from the State Plan.

(b) The problems of desert areas are different from those of the Hill areas.

(c) No, Sir. A statement is given below.

Statement

The Desert Development Programme aims at controlling the acute desert conditions in the hot and cold arid zones of the country. The schemes under this programme are specially designed to redress the imbalances arising out of its prevailing geographical conditions and these schemes include fuel and fodder plantation.

The aforesaid programme is complementary to other on-going programmes in the State Plan which provides for schemes for socio-economic growth and infrastructure development like drinking water, roads and education.

In case such schemes are included within the scope of the Desert Development Programme, its objective of controlling acute desert conditions would be diluted and it would become less effective.

The Government of India, with the approval of the National Development Council (NDC), has changed the pattern of assistance under the Desert Development Programme from 50-50 cost sharing between the Centre and the States to 100% Central assistance in the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985—90) thereby providing financial relief to the states who can invest the funds so released on schemes for infrastructure development and socio-economic growth in the desert areas.

The provision under this programme is Rs. 245 crores for the Seventh Plan period (1985—90) as against the Sixth Plan provision of about Rs. 95 crores. Since the outlay for this programme has already been

stepped up by over 250 per cent during the Seventh Plan as compared to the Sixth Plan, the provision cannot be increased further.

[English]

Setting up of Environmental Courts

*260. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for setting up of environmental courts on regional basis in view of growing litigation over environmental pollution ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) to (c) In a recent judgement, Supreme Court suggested that since cases involving issues of environmental pollution, ecological destruction and conflicts over natural resources are increasingly coming up for adjudication and as these cases involve assessment and evaluation of scientific and technical data, it might be desirable to set up Environmental Courts on regional basis with one professional judge and two experts drawn from the Ecological Sciences Research Group Keeping in view the nature of the cases and the expertise required for its adjudication. This suggestion is under examination.

Special Assistance to Writers Working for Welfare of Tribals

*261. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :
Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give special assistance to those writers and journalists who are working exclusively for the development of tribals ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?