

I would not go into more details but, Sir, I can say that the hazardous duties which the B. S. F. and the C. R. P. F. are performing, are known to us. And their betterment is always a subject-matter of our concern and we have been considering this along with their staff councils from time to time.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: It has been observed that some battalions of C. R. P. F. and B. S. F. are posted in 'disturbed' areas for a considerably long time. There is no pattern as in the Armed Forces where the battalions move from 'peace' area to 'disturbed' area and from disturbed area to peace area. Is the Government considering on this pattern to post the battalions from disturbed areas to peace areas and from some peace areas to disturbed areas under any scheme?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: While depling the forces, at present we are feeling they are short with the result that they are not given even the recess, and at times they have to be drawn from one place to another place of trouble.

Some times, they do not go the rest period. Therefore, it has been decided to raise three armed battalions of C. R. P. F. and two armed battalions of B. S. F. so that necessary relief could be provided to the persons who are performing the difficult duties.

As far as their deployments from troubled areas to peace areas are concerned, they always go wherever there is a disturbance or peace. Of course, in difficult districts like the hill districts, their duty is more hazardous. But now we will be in a position to take care of all this.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I take this opportunity to convey my thanks to the C. R. P. F. and the B. S. F. for their wonderful work in Assam. There was a time when they were not asked for. Now, all communities are asking for C. R. P. F. and B. S. F. in Assam.

They work in very strenuous conditions. In view of my experience in the North Eastern region, there is an unhappiness in C. R. P. F. because while they have to

counter the insurgency in Mizoram and other areas, they are not equipped with the arms which are required to counter this. In view of this, whether the Government will consider the possibility of arming them with good arms and ammunitions to counter the insurgency? It is not the law and order problem but the insurgency that should be countered properly in the North Eastern region. Will the Government consider this to provide them with sophisticated arms to counter the insurgency which is creating a panic among the public? Certain times, even the C.R.P. is running away from the insurgents.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the insurgent activities are concerned, the B. S. F. are mainly responsible for it and the B. S. F. being a para-military force, it is almost equipped at par with the military force.

As far as the C. R. P. F. is concerned, they have also been provided with modern weapons. Regarding their work, the hon. Member himself said that they have done very good duty in Assam. And now he is also saying that they are running away from the areas. This is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rasa Behari Behra —Absent.

Shri V. S. Vijayaraghavan —Absent.

Shri Harish Rawat —Absent.

What is the percentage today of the absentees!

Shrimati Madhuri Singh —Absent.

Abolition of capital punishment

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*160. **SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:**

SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly and also envisagd by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for abolition of capital punishment;

(b) whether it is proposed to make a study how far death penalty deters;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to abolish death penalty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to make such a study.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: In early two princely States of India had abolished death penalty; in 1981, France had abolished it and about 15 years ago, England had also abolished death penalty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why, as he has stated that there is no proposal to make such a study, there is no proposal to study the subject when there is a demand from the people that death penalty has not been a deterrent.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): As far as the question of abolition of death penalty is concerned, this has been discussed many a time. But as yet we have not found the atmosphere conducive for that. But whenever we can do it, we will certainly consider it.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: My question was, what has been done by various other countries, why is it not being considered?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): I do not think our policy should be shaped by what other countries are doing. I am personally absolutely opposed to capital punishment. But when we discussed this, we could not take a decision because of opposition from many people. But we did take the view that while formerly murder was automatically given the death penalty, which could be commuted to life sentence on a mercy petition, now we would reverse the process and we should normally not recommend capital punishment unless there were special reasons for it. In many cases we receive requests from the State Govern-

ments in respect of specially heinous crimes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It appears very strange for the Prime Minister saying, "I am myself personally against capital punishment but my Government is in favour of capital punishment".

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of democratic norm.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Not only my Government here, but State Governments as well.

Import of alloy and special steel in the country

*161. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of alloy and special steel was imported during the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and April-December, 1982;

(b) the rate of import duty charged during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that lakhs of tons of indigenous products have been accumulated with the steel industries;

(d) whether it is also a fact that FICCI study suggests that it is necessary to protect indigenous producers from the onslaught of huge imports of alloy and special steel by either putting the item under the banned or restricted list or increasing import duty; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard to save the steel industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Import of alloy steel including stainless steel during 1980-81 was 479538 tonnes. Data on imports during 1981-82 and April-December, 1982 are being collected.

(b) A Statement of the statutory rates of duty is laid on the Table of the House. Actual duty on an item will depend on