

trying to foment disaffection against the Government's established law and also in respect of development projects including Narmada project. What steps do the Government contemplate to take in this regard ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, I am not aware of any such reports. But if the hon. Member write to me, I would try to find out the fact or if he puts a separate question, I will try to answer.

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** In reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question, they have given that law and order in the left-wing extremists affected areas are being looked after. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that they are only concentrating on the left-wing extremist affected areas. But I would like to point out that the Naxalites are creeping in other areas as it has happened in Maharashtra. From Andhra Pradesh, they have come to Marathwada areas. Why don't you ask all the States to have socio-economic development programmes rightly implemented in all the States. Otherwise, if you restrict your activity only to these affected areas and give Police, paramilitary forces, weapons and all that, it is not going to help to stop the activities. They will penetrate in other areas. What action and what precautions are you going to take in this regard ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** I think it is the endeavour of the Government as a whole to impress upon all the State Governments to implement the development programmes in all the districts of every State. This is an exhortation which has to be made to the State Governments and I am sure the State Governments are conscious that if they fail in their duty to bring about economic development in the districts, this menace will spread from the areas to the affected areas which have not been affected. Therefore, I agree with the hon. Member's sentiments.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MANKURAM SODI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir district Bastar of Madhya Pradesh is also affected by naxalite problem. Due to lack of ecommunication facilities the

Government is not able to check naxalite activities effectively. Even after getting definite information about the naxalites, it cannot send adequate forces to such areas in time. Will the Government pay special attention to the construction of roads in areas which are affected by naxalite activities so that immediate action could be taken to tackle this problem. ?

[*English*]

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, it is a very good suggestion. The communications are of two kinds, firstly road networks and secondly wireless communication. The Government has and will continue to impress upon the State Governments to expand the road communication network in the affected areas.

As far as wireless communication is concerned, Sir, the Government of India has taken special interest in ensuring that the police have adequate wireless communication facilities ; our DCPW is helping the State Governments to expand rapidly the wireless communication facilities.

[*Translation*]

#### Indo-Burmese Cooperation to Curb Cross Border Insurgency.

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\*128. **SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :**

**SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Burma, co-operation of the Burmese Government was sought for curbing the cross border insurgency ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Burmese Government thereon ?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed that existing arrangements for cooperation in combating cross-border insurgency should continue and should be strengthened wherever possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply to the question that Government of Burma has agreed that existing arrangements for cooperation in curbing cross-border insurgency should continue. I would like to know the number of incidents which have occurred after this agreement and whether the Government of Burma is fully cooperating in implementing this agreement ?

[*English*]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir, we have been in touch with the authorities in Burma and the matter have come up during the Prime Minister's visit and we will do what ever we can. We are assured by the author itiesthat they will cooperate with us in dealing with this particular matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILIP SINGH BHURIA : I want to know from the hon Minister as to how far have we been successful in our efforts in curbing cross-border insurgency and what other measures are likely to be taken in this regard ?

[*English*]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : As I said, since we are concerned with this matter, it was taken in at the highest level and the two governments are in touch with each other and we are expecting the Burmese delegation shortly here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : As a result of this visit of the Prime Minister to Burma, would it pave the way to a possible invitation to Burma to join our SAARC ?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Well with due respect to the hon. Member, I

don't think Question No. 128 and what the hon. Member suggested are in any way related.

#### Facilities to Freedom Fighters

\*130. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility of free railway pass to freedom fighters which was initially given for one year has been extended further ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether this facility is proposed to be extended for life ;

(d) whether freedom fighters have also been allowed free voyage facility to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; and

(e) if so, the reasons for limiting it to pensioners who receive Union Government pension only ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c) : To enable the freedom fighters in receipt of Central pension to visit places of their choice along with respective spouse/one companion, the scheme for issue of 1st Class rail card passes valid for one year from the date of issue was initially in operation for one year from 19-11-1986 to 18.11.1987. However, following representations from several quarters, the period of operation of the scheme has been extended by one more year upto 18.11.1988 to enable the freedom fighters who had not so far applied to avail this facility.

(d) Yes. The first batch is scheduled to sail on 15-3-1988.

(e) It is upto the State Governments concerned to extend any facilities to State pension holders.

MR. SPEAKER : Question hour is over.