

integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement' to an offence.

(b) and (c) Some isolated incidents have come to the notice of the Government. Since 'Public Order' is a State subject under the constitution it is the responsibility of the State government to maintain it. Depending on the requirement and gravity of any situation, the Law and Order machinery is expected to act firmly and swiftly.

White Paper on ISI

646. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have expedited any process of bringing out a white paper on the activities of ISI in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof? ,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Preparation of a White Paper is under consideration.

Pak sponsored suicide squads

647. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Pak agencies sponsoring suicide squads" as appeared in the Times of India, dated 25th January, 2000;

(b) whether a view was expressed by the Pakistani agencies that Islam was in danger in India and the squads had to fight "Jehad" and if necessary become martyrs for the cause; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to check the menace of Fidayadeen groups (suicide squads)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Pakistan intelligence agencies have been working in close concert with religious fundamentalist forces in Pakistan to deploy foreign mercenaries in the name of 'Jehad' to abet militancy.

[1 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi- pronged approach for tackling the activities of militants which includes strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by well coordinated operations, setting up of outposts of Security Forces on strategic areas gearing up the intelligence machinery modernisation and upgradation of Police and Security Forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc.

Withdrawal of security cover to VIPs

† 648. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to curtail or withdraw the security cover provided to very important persons, former Members of Parliament, former Ministers and retired Members of Parliament;

(b) whether Government have reviewed those security reasons comprehensively for which they were provided security earlier, before withdrawing the security cover to all of them; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for withdrawing security cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The requirement of security in cases of all protectees including former Members of Parliament and former Minister is reviewed periodically, based on latest threat perception in each case. Government have a duty to see that persons in public life, who invite wrath of militants or terrorists are given due protection. Government also have a duty to ensure protection of common citizens. In order to ensure that adequate police force is available for the security of common citizen, Government continuously reviews deployment on personal security to ensure optimal use of the force.

Barbed wires at Indo-Pak border

† 649. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task of erecting of the barbed wires to check the cross border infiltration illeglly at Indo-Pakistan border has been completed;

(b) whether Government are going to hold talks with the Military

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.