

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government is aware of the media report.

(b) Government is alive to situation and have adopted a multi-pronged strategy to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI. This includes gearing up intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling, improved border management including setting up of border outposts, neutralizing plans of militants activities in hinterland etc. Besides the enforcement agencies related to drugs have been asked to keep utmost vigil and to step up enforcement of stringent provisions of NDPS Act. BSF and Coast Guards have also been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotics drugs on the border in addition to Central and state enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

#### **Reserved Battalion in Tripura**

248. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to assist the Tripura Government for raising of two reserved battalion in the State; and

(b) if so, by when this decision would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No decision has yet been taken by the Govt. on the requests of the state Govts. for raising of IR Battalions including that of state Govt. of Tripura.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Sati Ritual at Mahoba**

249. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported re-enactment of the barbaric ritual of SATI at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken to ensure that the place is not made a pilgrimage spot?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from the State Government, one Shri Manshah, S/o Shri Harju, of village Satpurva, District Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh had expired on 11.11.1999. His widow, Smt. Charanshah, was reportedly very attached to him. After her husband's funeral pyre had been lit and the villagers, who had accompanied the dead body, had gone to take a bath, she rushed to the cremation site and mounted the burning pyre. The enquiries conducted by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police reveal that Smt. Charanshah was not motivated or pressurised by anybody to take this drastic step. This is said to be a case of suicide, and not of Sati, as neither Smt. Charanshah nor the villagers had performed any pooja/rituals before the incident. "Police" and "Public Order" being State subjects, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been advised to keep the situation under watch and prevent all attempts for converting the place into a Sati Temple or a pilgrimage spot.

### **Foreign Citizens Settling In Border Areas of Gujarat**

**250. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of India have issued identity cards to Indian citizens residing in border districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign nationals like Bangladeshis etc. are settling down in the Pak border areas adjoining Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made or being made to check such activities of foreign citizens in the border districts?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO):** (a) Under a Pilot Scheme in 1993, Government had issued Identity Cards in some of the border areas in the districts of Kutch and Banaskant of Gujarat.