

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Repealing Tada

832. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to bring forward a new legislation containing substantially the provisions of the repealed Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details of the proposed Act; and

(c) whether the view points of the major political parties are likely to be ascertained beforehand and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 which seeks to provide an alternate law for combating terrorism was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1995 when the erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 was allowed to lapse. This Bill has remained pending because of absence of political consensus on the passing of this Bill. On the advice of this Ministry, Law Commission has now taken up the study for formulating requisite law for combating terrorism in the country.

Abduction of RSS Parcharaks in Tripura

833. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to locate the RSS parcharaks who have been abducted by NLFT in Tripura;

(b) whether these militants are being helped and funded by some associations receiving funds from foreign countries, for religious work;

(c) if so, what action has been taken against those associations; and

(d) whether any contact has been made with the militants for the release of these RSS workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI: (a) Regular combing operations were launched in the concerned areas to locate the RSS parcharaks abducted by NLFT. Aerial survey was also carried out using a helicopter. Special operations were also carried out by the security forces in the area. Efforts to locate the abducted persons are continuing.

(b) and (c) There is no authentic information about the militants in Tripura being helped by associations receiving funds from foreign countries for religious work.

(d) No such information is there.

Talks with ULFA

834. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the response of ULFA to the Central Government's offer of unconditional talks;

(b) whether the ULFA and NDFB are not agreeable to the offer; if so, whether the Central Government would think of a full-scale offensive to pressurise them to come forward for talks; and

(c) if so, whether Government are planning to seek cooperation of the Bhutan Government to flush out the underground rebels, taking refuge in the dense jungles of that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI: (a) and (b) In response to the Central Government's offer of unconditional talks, the ULFA is insisting on conditions which are unacceptable to the Government of India. The Government of India continues to take the necessary measures to neutralise ULFA and the NDFB.

(c) The Government of India and Government of Bhutan are in constant touch with a view to flush out the militant groups operating from within Bhutan.