

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Forced Conversion of Hindus in North-East

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in the Assam Tribune of 2nd November, 1999 that some institutions are indulging in forced conversions and Taliban style of Islamisation of Hindu youths, particularly in Manipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreigners are often visiting madrasas in North-East and are indulging in anti-national activities; and

(c) whether Government would ask the CBI and other agencies to nab these foreigners, financed by ISI and other agencies, inimical to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Major Fire Near Delhi

829. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major fire broke out very recently near Delhi, where in many lives and property were lost;

(b) whether Government are having figures of such incidents during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether the losses have been huge; if so, whether Government would change the present fire law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) According to available information, a fire had broken out in Katchey Quarters Market, Ashok Nagar, Sonipat, on 6.11.1999 in which 49 lives were lost.

(b) and (c) No such data is maintained at the Central level. It is for the State Governments to modify the existing fire laws keeping in view the local conditions and requirements, etc.