

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.