

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

North Eastern Council

2196. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Eastern Council works as a planning body of seven States, for balanced development of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, how many meetings were held during the last four years;

(c) the amount granted under various heads of developmental works for each State during the last four years;

(d) whether the amount given is utilised by the States and the target are fulfilled; and

(e) whether there is any machinery to supervise and monitor the planned works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per Section 4 of the NEC Act, 1971, the Council shall be an advisory body and may discuss and make recommendation with regard to:

(i) any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning.

(ii) any matter concerning inter-state transport and communication.

(iii) any matter relating to power or flood control projects of common interest.

(b) Three.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Warning to Pakistan by J&K Chief Minister

2197. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported warning to Pakistan by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister saying "Do not repeat Kargil, otherwise we will march into POK", as per news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th December, 1999;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether any dialogue between India and Pakistan is possible in the near future, to find out any workable solution of the over five decade old Kashmir crisis?

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

(b) and (c) The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements through its abandonment of cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda.

Train Robberies

2198. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of train robberies reported during the last six months;
- (b) whether such incidents are increasing alarmingly;
- (c) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure safety of train passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) According to available information, 84 robberies in running trains were reported during the period May, 99 to October' 99.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) which functions under the control of respective State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments to take necessary measures for ensuring the safety of railway passengers and their belongings. An Action Plan was also suggested to the State Governments in this regard. This Action Plan includes, inter alia, the need for regular meetings between the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force, setting up of mobile police posts in trains, improvement in coordination between the police escort and running staff, removal of unauthorised persons and other undesirable elements, prompt registration of cases at the first place of reporting, investigation of cases of dacoities and robberies by State CID by constituting a Task Force, maintaining records of gang criminals involved in dacoities and robberies etc.

Committee to review working of constitution

2199. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are likely to set up a Committee to review the working of the Constitution of India;