

provided vehicles, weapons and equipment worth Rs. 34.99 crores and Rs. 3.36 crores during 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. The weapons included SLRs, carbines, pistols, etc. Further, an amount of Rs. 2.63 crores has been provided during 1998-99 to the State Government of Assam for bullet-proofing of vehicles.

The Central Government also reimburses security related expenditure to the North-Eastern States for tackling insurgency in the region. The amount reimbursed in this regard is Rs. 162.45 crores during the current year, i.e., 1998-99.

Register for Citizens/Non-Citizens in North-East

814. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a register for citizens and non-citizens in the North-Eastern States, in order to identify the foreign nationals living in the region, as suggested by the Governor of Assam in his recent report to the President of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of effective steps being taken by Government to curb influx of infiltrators?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) A scheme to issue Multi-purpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above is under consideration. The identity cards to citizens as well as non citizens will be issued on the basis of an inventory of citizens/non-citizens organised in a computer readable form. It will help in easy identification of persons to check illegal immigration and infiltration.

(c) Several measures have been taken to curb and prevent infiltration. These

include, *inter alia*, raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force; reducing gaps between the border outposts; increase in the number of outpost towers, intensification of patrolling along the border, both land and riverine; surveillance on the coastal areas; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

Rising Crimes Against Women

815. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how Government plan to reduce the rising crimes against women in different parts of the country;

(b) what are the details of steps towards police sensitization in this regard; and

(c) what are the plans for equipping the police stations to deal with such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes, including those

against women, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been writing to the State Governments, from time to time, stressing upon them the need to take preventive and punitive measures in connection with crimes against women. These measures include, *inter alia*, setting up of women police stations creation of women police cells in police stations, recruitment of women in police, identification of atrocity-prone areas, hearing of rape cases in courts presided over by lady judges as far as possible, sensitisation of government/semi-government/private organisations for prevention of sexual harassment of women at the place of their work, stern action against perpetrators of crimes