

CMs to discuss the law and order situation

1924. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the law and order situation with special reference to terrorist activities in different parts of the country and the ways and means to control the prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):

(a) and (b) The Union Home Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan on 14-10-1998 to discuss the prevailing law and order situation in these States. The meeting, among others, recommended setting up a Special Task Force to evolve and implement an Action Plan to identify and tackle the problems being created by terrorists and criminal gangs for coordinated operations against Inter-State criminals, greater coordination of intelligence and strategy, amending of old laws for effective countering of strategies adopted by criminals and strengthening of State police force etc.

A meeting of the Chief Ministers of States/UTs was convened by the Prime Minister on 27-11-1998 to discuss the price rise of essential commodities during the recent past. Suggestions were made in this meeting for adoption of comprehensive measures for stimulating production of essential commodities, protection of the interests of the farmers, institution of proper mechanisms for forecasting of production, monitoring of prices streamlin-

ing of distribution, setting up of cold storage chains and processing facilities, strengthening of the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies etc.

Smuggling of essential commodities on Indo-Bangladesh Border

1925. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has urged Government to take over some roads and routes leading to Indo-Bangladesh borders in order to strengthen vigilance by Border Security Force;

(b) whether the BSF has been completely failing to check the rising smuggling activities whereby Indian produce including essential commodities are going out of the country to create shortage in the State;

(c) whether Government would take immediate action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and results achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A number of measures including reduction of gaps between Border Out Posts, intensification and increase in patrols, erection of Observation Post Towers, use of night vision devices, construction of border roads and fences along sensitive stretches have been taken to check smuggling. The seizures of essential commodities made by the Border Security Force deployed on

the Indo-Bangladesh border during the last three years as given below

show that Border Security Force is vigilant to check smuggling:—

Item	1996	1997	1998 (upto 30-11-1998)
Salt (Kg)	1699625	3485377	1259904
Sugar (Kg)	1567774	1771870	1215145
Rice (Kg)	783102	56198	524744
Cloth (rupees)	30824120	34735620	28266873

Crime committed by people living in slums/J.J. clusters

1926. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Police Commissioner of Delhi had stated in a press conference in the month of August that out of about 50 lakh people living in slums and J. J. clusters more than 20 lakh had been engaged in construction work and due to the slump in the construction work these people, particularly the youth, were indulging in various crimes and that is why the crime rate was increasing in the metropolis; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):

(a) and (b) The Commissioner of Police, Delhi had stated that as a large number of slum dwellers in Delhi were engaged in construction work and there was a recession in this activity, the law and order situation had been affected adversely.

The steps taken by Delhi Police to maintain law and order in Delhi include intensification of patrolling especially between 6 P.M. and

10 P.M.; surveillance over the activities of known criminals; improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill repute and suspected hideouts of criminals; and high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas.

Freeing the police force from excessive political control

1927. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked Government to consider constitution of a high level Independent Review Committee (IRC) to go into the recommendations of the Police Commission report as well as suggestions by the National Human Rights Commission to free the force from excessive political control; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the directions of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court dated the 20th July, 1998, the Committee consti-