

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A meeting of political parties was held on 22nd May, 1998, to consider the question of delimitation. At this meeting it was decided that as per article 82 of the Constitution, fresh delimitation would be mandatory after publication of the figures of the first census taken after the year 2000 and as the year 2000 was close by, there was no need to amend the Constitution immediately for the purpose of enabling fresh readjustment of constituencies. It was decided that the existing position may continue till fresh delimitation became due as per existing Constitutional provisions.

Review of Tada Cases

2683. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under Tada in various States as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to review their cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government/UT Administrations there are 1022 persons under detention under TADA.

(b) and (c) Pending TADA cases filed by state police are regularly reviewed by the State Review Committee and those filed by CBI by the Central Review Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

As per available information, subsequent to reviews carried out, TADA charges have been dropped against as many as 23901 persons. Now, most of the cases that remain, pertain to serious terrorist crimes. Instructions have been is-

sued to state government to expedite the disposal of these cases by designated TADA courts and not to seek adjournments.

Pak Firing Along LOC

2684. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Indian Express of November 7, 1998, captioned "Pak shells haunt Tangdhar even in death";

(b) if so, the number and details of village, along the LOC, their population and total area so affected by continuous shelling by Pak troops from across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir; and the number of persons, including women and children killed in such shelling during the past three months; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect them and to provide them due security of life against shelling and firing by Pak troops, by way of shifting them to safer places or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of villages of Kargil, Gurez, Karnah, Keran, Tangdhar, Machhel, Uri, Rampur, Punch, Nawshera, Sunderbani, Krishnaghati, Bhimberghali, Palanwala, etc. areas on the LOC have been subjected to shelling and firing by Pak troops in J&K. 7 civilians including 3 women were killed in the shelling by Pak troops during the period Sept. to Nov. 1998.

Appropriate retaliatory action in response to the cross border shelling is taken by the Security Forces to ensure the security of life and property on the Indian side. The State Govt. is taking various measures to provide safety and relief to the victims of cross border firing. State Government has been advised that