

in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the discharge of this duty, the Central Government is expected to keep itself posted with respect to going-on in all States. Visits of Central officials to the States are part of this process. The Central and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Cognizable Crimes

2355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the detailed figures for cognizable crimes like murders, decoity, atrocities on women like rape, attacks on SCs and STs etc. with item-wise and State-wise break-up for the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Information is readily available up to the month of April'98 only. According to it, the position in regard to cognizable crimes in various State/Union Territories during February, March and April'98 was as indicated in the enclosed Annexure. [see Appendix 184, Annexure No. 69.]

Stone Carving for Ayodhya Temple

2356. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report that stone carving work is in progress in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) in undisputed areas;

(b) if so, the progress made in the work;

(c) whether Government have received protests from some opposition parties in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop the construction preparatory work?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) No construction activity is going on at the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya. However, from various sources, reports have been received that cutting and carving of stone pillars are going on at places away from the disputed site at Ayodhya and at some villages in Rajasthan. Carving of stones away from the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya does not constitute violation of any law. Some of the political parties have also protested in the matter. Central Government as a statutory receiver is duty bound to maintain status-quo in the disputed area as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 24.10.94. The site is under the protection of the Central Government and it would be protected fully.

Economic Package for North-Eastern States

2357. SHRI PRAKANTA WARSIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government for implementation of economic package for North-Eastern States, particularly in Assam, as announced by earlier Government;

(b) whether Government propose any modification in the economic package for the State of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) A majority of the projects/schemes

included in the economic package for the North Eastern States are under various stages of implementation. Preliminary survey/investigation etc. are being done in respect of the remaining schemes. The implementation of these schemes are being regularly monitored by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Assessment of Law and Order in States by Central Teams

2358. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sending of central teams to assess the law and order situation in the States in within the ambit of article 355 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the discharge of this duty, the Central Government is expected to keep itself posted with respect to goings-on in all States. Visits of Central officials to the States are part of this process. The Central and state Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Reang Families in Tripura Refugee Camps

2359. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of families belonging to Reang community have taken shelter in the refugee camps in Tripura after leaving their villages in Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will meet the expenditure on account of providing necessary amenities to these refugees; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure early return of these families to their villages in Mizoram?

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

(b) The exodus of Reang from Mizoram started in October/November 1997 in the wake of ethnic tension between Mizos and Reangs in Tuipuibari area of Aizawl West District. The exodus towards Tripura and Assam continued till February/March 1998 on the major chunk of Reang refugees taking shelter in Gochirampara refugee camp (Tripura). The number of such refugees has crossed 30,000.

(c) The Central Government has providing financial assistance to Governments of Tripura and Assam towards maintenance of these refugees.

(d) The Central Government is keen on ensuring early return of refugees to their villages in Mizoram. This has been impressed upon all the concerned agencies. Government of Mizoram has assured the refugees of proper security, speedy development of their area in Mizoram and financial assistance for their rehabilitation. An inquiry into the allegations of excesses committed upon them has also been offered.

Reimbursement of Security-Related Expenditure to States

2360. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reimbursed security-related expenditure to the States of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that request of some other States, including Tripura, for reimbursement of security-related expenditure are pending with Government;