

(c) what action has been taken by Government against those involved in the scandal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A three member Committee of police officers found on random check that the maintenance contractor of traffic signals/ blinkers had committed some irregularities; these included non-laying of cables and discrepancies in the length of the cables. Thereupon another Committee was constituted to check and physically verify each pending and future claim of the contractor, so that no over-payment is allowed. Delhi Police have informed that necessary deductions have been made before making payment to the contractor. Moreover, a show cause notice has also been issued to the contractor about the said irregularities.

Special Status to Orissa

1564. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been received to declare Orissa as a special category State; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on it?

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

(b) The issue of declaring Orissa as a Special Category State is to be examined in the context of the Gadgil formula which is the basis for inter-state allocation of Central Plan Assistance. The Planning Commission, at present, is examining the suggestions/comments received from Chief Ministers regarding further revision of the said formula which was last revised in 1991 with the approval of the National Development Council.

Implementation of Assam Accord

1565. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated by Government for clause-wise implementation of the Assam Accord and the progress made, so far;

(b) the major constraints identified in the implementation of the Accord;

(c) whether Government propose to scrap the IMDT Act or to amend it in terms of the Assam Accord, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the achievements made, so far, in sealing of the Indo-Bangla Border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. Central Government has also been holding tripartite meeting with Government of Assam and representatives of All Assam Students Union (AASU) to review implementation of various clauses of Assam Accord. Action taken so far to implement the Accord is given in the statement (See below).

(b) Certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltration, crossing/ attempting to cross the border etc. and therefore need to be continuously monitored.

(c) The scrapping of IMDT Act, 1983 is under consideration of Government.

(d) 779.58 km border fencing of sanctioned 896 kms. has been completed on Indo-Bangladesh Border upto March 31, 1998.

Statement

The Government of India is fully committed to the implementation of the Assam Accord, 1985, Various measures