

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	29	—	—
16.	Punjab	319	124	124
17.	Rajasthan	192	22	22
18.	Tamil Nadu	95	24	24
19.	Uttar Pradesh	241	31	31
20.	West Bengal	6	6	6
21.	Chandigarh Admn.	5	Nil	—
22.	NCT Delhi	377	115	115
Total		5345	1335	1331

#### **Separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan**

1543. PROF RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maharashtra Legislature had unanimously passed a Resolution on 13.3.89 for creation of a separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan;

(b) whether Government are also ware that the Government of Maharashtra requested Government on 21.4.89 to amend the Constitution for creation of this Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had informed the Maharashtra Government that if Central Government are convinced in two/three years that the Konkan region can better be developed under a separate board, the question can be considered; and

(d) if so, what are the views of Government on the issue of creation of Konkan Development Board?

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

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) and (d) on 15.1.1997, the State Government was informed that the three Development Boards in Maharashtra, one each for Vidarbha, Marathwada and

the rest of Maharashtra had been set up only in 1994 and therefore, it might be too early to consider any alteration in the existing set up, as any new organisational set-up, inevitably takes time to show tangible results. It was further stated that in case it was felt during the next two to three years that the Board for the rest of Maharashtra was not in a position to effectively cater to development requirements of the Konkan region and the Central Government was convinced that the said region could be better developed under separate Board the question of establishing a Development Board exclusively for Konkan could then be considered. The position can be reviewed in due course.

#### **Punjabi as a Second Language in Delhi**

1544. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Union Territory of Delhi has a bill under consideration for declaring Punjabi as its second language which was referred to a Select Committee and is understood to have been cleared sometime ago; and

(b) if so, how long more would Punjabis have to wait to receive due recognition of their mother-tongue with which are linked various factors of Delhi's development and now that it is 50 years since they have made it their home?

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

(b) There has been some delay in finalising the matter as the Bill had to be redrafted in light of certain amendments suggested by the Selected Committee of Delhi Legislative Assembly to which it had been referred for consideration.

### **North-East Economic Packages**

1545. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages for economic development of the region; and

(b) what has been the fate of the earlier packages announced by U.P. Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages include, inter-alia, setting up a Commission for determination of gaps in infrastructure and Basic Minimum services in the North Eastern Region; priority for creation of employment opportunities for the educated unemployed and setting up a High Level Committee on educated unemployed; full funding for on-going projects; Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures; full coverage through Employment Assurance Schemes and expansion of Border area Roads to cover Indo-Mynamar Border; allocation of 10% of budget by Central Ministries for specific programmes in North East; improvement in credit flows; formulation of new Industrial Policy; development of tourism; improvement in railway infrastructure and measures for control of Narcotics & AIDS.

(b) The earlier package continues.

### **Suicide Attempt by Railway employee**

1546. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway employee from Bihar set himself ablaze on the road outside P.M.'s official residence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Shri Brij Mohan r/o district Darbhanga, Bihar visited 7, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi on 5.5.98 to meet the Prime Minister and was given access after due checks. As the Prime Minister's meeting with the public on that day had been called off in advance, all persons who had assembled were met by the personal staff of P.M. after which all of them including Shri Brij Mohan left. However, Shri Brij Mohan seems to have returned to Safdarjung Road after some time and set himself ablaze in front of House No. 1, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi. He was immediately removed to Safdarjung Hospital where he succumbed to burn injuries the same day.

### **Pension for Freedom fighters in Meghalaya**

1547. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 18th April, 1998 under the Caption "Freedom fighters still await pension in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The news-item under reference relates to the pension given to the freedom