

and other property including the railway property;

(b) the details of the militant, anti-social and other organisations Indian and foreign, found involved in these blasts; and

(c) the steps taken to bring the culprits to book and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) 168 blasts including RDX explosions took place in Jammu and Kashmir during the current year (upto April 15, 1997) in which 69 persons were killed, 26 houses, 10 shops and one school buildings and 6 vehicles were damaged. In the rest of the country, as per information available, 27 blasts were reported killing 12 persons and injuring 85. Details of damage caused to public property etc. in states other than Jammu and Kashmir is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) There are various militant groups which are involved in these acts and these groups are aided and abetted by Pakistani Intelligence Agency, ISI. The main organisations involved in Jammu and Kashmir are Hizbul Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Ansar, Bashkar-e-Toiba, Al-Jahad, Tahreed-ul-Mujahideen etc. Various steps have been taken which include vigil on the border and indepth areas, increase in Naka parties, establishment of pickets manned by security forces at important places etc. Other steps include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies. In addition, action against the arrested militants is taken under the relevant provisions of law.

Lower calories of Food for BSF Constables

3416. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH
'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended 2900 calories of food for BSF constables against the requirement of 3850 calories prescribed by the Nutrition Advisory Council and Medical Council of India for such category of personnel; and

(b) if so, the reasons for recommending lower calories to them as compared to Army Personnel deployed in the similar border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSF non-gazetted personnel are allowed ration money equivalent of 2900 calories. However, BSF personnel deployed under operational control of Army are allowed ration at par with Army. The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended payment of Ration money allowance at the existing scale.

Demand for Official Status to Maithili Language

3417. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the discontentment and disaffection amongst the more than 25 million Mathili speaking people of Bihar over the issue of grant of official status to Maithili language which has been hanging fire for more than three decades;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demand of Sahitya Academy for immediate inclusion of Mathili language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the legislation is proposed to be brought forward in the Parliament?