

(d) the details of activities of such Foundation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The objectives of the Foundation are to:

(i) Undertake programmes or projects for providing assistance to the children of families affected by communal violence, in particular for their education and/or vocational training;

(ii) Undertake programmes or projects for assisting in the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the children, families or other victims of communal violence, and in their assimilation into the mainstream of society;

(iii) Promote or undertake activities for the promotion of communal harmony and national integration including, but not limited to scholarships, fellowships and studies;

(iv) Promote or undertake activities which will highlight and strengthen the bonds of unity and affinity between different religious and other groups in the country;

(v) Undertake and encourage activities which will promote belief in the principles of non-violence in resolving disputes between different religious and other groups in society;

(vi) Institute awards or rewards for outstanding contributions to the cause of communal harmony and national integration;

(vii) Cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, industrial and commercial organisations, and non-governmental, voluntary and other organisations and bodies in promoting the objects of the Foundation;

(viii) Provide information services, set up libraries, bring out journals

books or other forms of literature to promote the objects of the Foundation;

(ix) Do all such other lawful acts and things as may be necessary or conducive for furthering the objects of the Foundation.

The Foundation provides financial assistance to children affected by communal riots which took place after 24th July, 1991. The assistance is provided for items like textbooks, stationery, food, clothing, health care and recreation. The scale of assistance is Rs. 425 per Month per child for class A and B cities and Rs. 375 per Month per child in other places. The Foundation is funded by the Central Government and by donations from the public.

#### Variation in the rates of compensation

4119. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a large variation in the rate of compensation being paid to the kins of those killed or to those seriously injured by terrorists, in Rail accidents, Air accidents, Road Transport accidents and the like-both at State and National level;

(b) if so, what are the details of the rates of compensation being paid by the Central and State Agencies;

(c) whether Government would consider issuing uniform guidelines for follow-up action to avoid discrimination of these rates in the interest of justice with details of action proposed to be taken in this regard, if the variation in rates of compensation are large enough; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed. (See below)

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

#### Statement

Public order being a State subject it is for the State Governments concerned to devise various methods to take concrete steps to improve law and order situation, provide adequate security to the citizens as well as wherever necessary extend financial and other assistance to the victims. Accordingly, some State Governments have schemes for payment or ex-gratia relief to the victims of tragedies like-bomb blasts, fire, riots and other accidents. At the Central level compensation is paid in the event of rail, and Air accidents as under:

*Rail accidents:* Under the Railway Act, 1989 there is provision for payment of a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs in case of death or total disability and a minimum of Rs. 16,000/- to a maximum of Rs. 1,80,000/- for various kinds of injuries.

#### *Air accidents:*

(1) In the event of death of a passenger or any bodily injury or bound suffered by a passenger which results in a permanent disablement in-capacitating him from engaging in or being occupied with his usual duties, or business or occupation, the liability of the carrier for each passenger shall be Rs. 5 lakhs if the passenger is 12 or more years of age, and Rs. 2.5 lakhs if the passenger is below 12 years of age on the date of accident.

(2) In the event of wounding of a passenger or any bodily injury suffered by the passenger which results in a temporary disablement preventing an injured passenger from attending to his usual duties or business or occupation, the liability of the carrier for each passenger shall be limited to a sum calculated at the rate of Rs. 500/- per day, the period during which he continues to be so disabled or a sum of Rs. 1 lakh whichever is less.

#### Taking out children abroad

4120. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children are being taken out abroad on adoption every year from orphanage houses from Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the magnitude of the problem State-wise at all India level;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints in this regard, if so, details thereof; and

(d) details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Release of criminals for want of evidence

4121. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend or redraft present criminal procedure code in view of the changed atmosphere of the country where a large number of criminals are being released for want of evidence;

(b) whether in most of the cases the evidence is not being recorded because the witnesses are being threatened by criminals with dire consequences and as such having committed a crime, most of the criminals are getting released; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on