

they are doing something in violation of the order. That is a separate matter. But I am asking you to issue a direction for the protection of what is called the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid *sthan*, of that structure. That word is used here. So, I want to know about that particular thing and that is not pending in the Supreme Court.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Actually, the Supreme Court is definitely seized of the matter. They have given certain directions to the State Government. But, if the honourable Member is hinting only at issuing a directive under article 256, then the natural corollary will be that article 356 will have to be applied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 104.

Work on the Chilka Aquatic Project

*104. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have asked the Government of Orissa not to permit any work on the Chilka Aquatic Project Ltd. to proceed till the environmental issues concerning it are fully examined; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has been advised that the project work, including the construction activities, should not be permitted till a proper environmental impact assessment study is carried out.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Madam, recently, I was going through the Annual Report for 1990-91, published by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The Report

says: "India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. India had designated two of its Wetlands, that is, Keoladeo National Park and the Chilka Lake for inclusion in the list of Wetlands of International Importance." I would, therefore, like to ask the Minister what the details of the Convention on Wetlands are and in what manner this Convention will be violated by the Chilka Aquatic Project Ltd.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Madam, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance for Water Fowl Habitats, generally referred to as the Ramsar Convention, is an international convention which provides for international co-operation for conservation of wetland habitats. This was adopted in 1971 in Iran. The Convention was enforced in 1975 following its signing by seven countries initially. India is a signatory to the Convention. As the honourable Member has correctly said, although the Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan and the Chilka Lake in Orissa are included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance, subsequently, four more wetlands were also sought to be included. At present, 62 countries are parties to this Convention and they have designated 525 sites. The obligation of the contracting parties is to inform the Ramsar Convention Bureau in Switzerland about the changes or the likely changes in the ecological characteristics of the Ramsar Convention countries. As I said earlier, the Chilka Lake has been designated to be one site under this Convention and as changes may arise as a result of technological development, pollution or human interference, we have asked the Orissa State Government to carry out environmental impact studies and they have assured us that this is being done and this will be done. As yet, it has not been done and we have advised them to start work on this before undertaking the project.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Madam, recently, on the 10th June, 1992, there

was a new items in the "Hindustan Times" under the caption, "Orissa told to stop work.". In this connection, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Chilka Aquatic Project Limited is solely a prawn project, whether this project is causing any threat to the famous Chilka Lake, its ecosystem, its environment and the aquatic bird life, and if it is not solely a prawn project, the other details of this project.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Madam, the project consists of...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. But you can send a reply to her.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees

*105. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Sri Lankan refugees repatriated so far; and

(b) what is the number of refugees proposed to be repatriated during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) From 20th January, 1992 to 15th May, 1992, 23, 126 refugees have been repatriated to Sri Lanka.

(b) It is not possible to project numbers as repatriation depends upon a variety of considerations viz. the convenience of Sri Lankan Government, readiness of refugees for repatriation, availability of transport etc.

@ Previously Starred Question 25, transferred from 9th July, 1992.

Extremist's activities in Punjab

*106. SHRIRAJUBHAIA. PARMAR:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ultras killed or taken into custody in Punjab during the last three months, and their hideouts unearthed with or without the aid of the army;

(b) the number of extremists who have surrendered with arms during this period;

(c) the number of security personnel and civilians including women and children killed by ultras in Punjab during this period;

(d) the details of the militants outfits presently active in Punjab and the estimated number of ultras in each of these out-fits; and

(e) what is Government's latest assessments about the terrorist activities in Punjab, and whether Government have or propose to withdraw army from the affected areas of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the Government of Punjab, 601 militants have been killed and 304 militants have been arrested during the period. During the same period, 462 civilians including police personnel, women and children have been killed. 121 militants have also surrendered in Punjab during last 3 months.

(d) Militants and militant outfits in Punjab continue to recruit new cadres to replace the losses and as such it is not possible to give any estimate in this regard.

(e) Anti-terrorist operations have been yielding satisfactory results. It would, however, be pre-mature to arrive at a definite conclusion in this regard. No decision has been taken!