

Infiltration in the army

*138. SHRI R. C. SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the top serving army officers were found to be involved in the Malegaon blast episode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to probe into the alleged Hindutva infiltration in army having its disturbing implications for national security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) While investigating the Malegaon blast case, the Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Mumbai Police has come across the alleged involvement of one Army officer. The ongoing investigation by the ATS has so far not established the involvement of any other serving army officer in this case. No alleged infiltration of Hindutva elements into the army has been established by the investigation so far.

Transport subsidy scheme

*139. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing transport subsidy scheme to attract investors in 14 States and UTs;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the above scheme;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred under this scheme since its inception, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission is also evaluating the scheme to introduce the necessary safeguards to prevent the possible leakage and misuse; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Transport Subsidy Scheme which was introduced in 1971 has been extended from time to time. On 29.3.2007, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) last approved extension of the Scheme upto 31.3.2008 with the directions that, in the meanwhile, an evaluation of the Scheme may be carried out with a view to introducing necessary safeguards in order to prevent possible leakages and misuse.

The aim of the Scheme is to facilitate the process of industrialization in the hilly, remote and inaccessible areas such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh Uttarakhand, Darjeeling District of West Bengal and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(c) The details are given in the Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, action has been initiated to assign evaluation of the Scheme to an independent agency. Further, on the suggestion of Planning Commission, C and AG has also been requested to conduct a performance audit of the Scheme.