

With reference to the case of Mumbai, there were no specific inputs pointing to the possibility of the attacks that occurred. Intelligence regarding a suspected LeT vessel, and possibilities of its infiltration, was shared with the Navy and the Coast Guard. The coordinates given placed the suspected vessel in Pakistani waters. Nevertheless, both organizations took action by way of deploying vessels and aircraft in the zone, but no further specific action was found possible on the basis of the available information. Action has been taken to augment and strengthen the intelligence machinery by sanction of additional posts and for filling them up expeditiously and the existing mechanisms and arrangements for gathering and sharing of intelligence are being further reviewed to make them more effective and result oriented.

#### **Inevitability of federal investigation agency and stringent laws**

†1796. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that terror incidents of the sort occurred in Mumbai, has introduced a new chapter by changing the face of terrorism into war;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto recognizing the inevitability of federal investigation agency and stringent laws;

(c) whether Government is now considering to make them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government following this incident, so that such incident could be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The basic ideology, objectives and nature of targets of the terrorist groups involved in sponsoring or perpetrating terrorist activities in the country continue to remain unchanged, although the means and methodology adopted may change, from time to time, in different areas and incidents, together with progressively growing use of modern technology, communications, *etc.* The recent incidents in Mumbai have however demonstrated distinctive elements and features, including a well-planned and audacious attack in the nature of a suicide mission by Pakistani nationals, involving the use of sophisticated communications technology and weaponry, targeting of foreign nationals and a mix of multiple heightened and other targets.

(b) to (d) The issue of setting up of a federal/central investigating agency to enable investigation of selected cases of terrorism that may have Inter-State or international linkages and pose a direct threat to the national security, and related crimes such as hijacking, Fake Indian Currency Notes from outside the country, *etc.*, has been under consideration of Government in consultation with State Governments and the Law Ministry, *etc.* It is now proposed to bring in a Bill for legislation in this regard.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) The Government has been pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to deal with terrorism and a variety of measures have been taken to further strengthen the security arrangements in this context, which *inter-alia* include the following: The Government has decided to locate National Security Guards (NSG) Units in a few regional hubs, and to draw upon the Commando Units of the Armed forces to create more regional hubs until a decision is taken to locate NSG Units in those hubs too; in principle decision has been taken to create a Coastal Command for overall supervision and coordination of maritime and coastal security; it has been decided to set up 20 Counter-Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism schools in various parts of the country for imparting Commando training to State Police forces; an exercise is underway to reinforce the laws relating to counter terrorism by strengthening the legal provisions relating to the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of terrorist acts and it is proposed to bring a Bill for the purpose; steps are also being taken to further augment the intelligence agencies, and streamline and strengthen the mechanisms for intelligence gathering and sharing to make them more effective and result oriented, besides action to fill the vacancies in the intelligence organizations expeditiously and to further provide them with advanced technical equipment. Further, the Government have already authorized that 2 Coys of each India Reserve Battalion, which are being raised with assistance from the Central Government, may be raised as special Commando Units for which additional assistance will be provided for training, equipment, *etc.*

#### **ISI plan to penetrate into major Indian cities**

1797. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ISI is busy making plans to target India by using nuclear, biological and chemical weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ISI has planned to penetrate into major cities by using its sleeper cells; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to defuse such nefarious designs/plans of the ISI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No inputs have been received regarding specific threats entailing the use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in the country by terrorists. However, the Government is vigilant about possible threats of this nature in the future.

(c) Linkages between the ISI and various terror groups based in Pakistan, and operating in India, are well known and well documented through revelations by terrorists apprehended and investigations from time to time. Inquiries and investigations into various acts of terrorism in the recent past have indicated linkages of elements involved in terrorist incidents in the States of