

(c) On April 22, our High Commissioner in Dhaka called on the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary when the need for measures to avoid the recurrence of such incidents was stressed. Subsequently, a meeting of officers of BSF and BDR at the Inspector General (IG) level took place on May 8, wherein the two sides resolved to exercise restraint in future.

Action Plan to Improve Law and Order situation in the Country

582. KUMARI CHANDRIKA

PREMI KENIA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR
BIRLA:

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHAN-
DRAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had stated recently at Puttapparthi that an action plan to improve the law and order situation in the country is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details of such a plan and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) to what extent law and order situation is likely to be improved in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No Sir, The Home Minister has not made such a statement.

(b) and (c) Under the VIIIth Schedule to the Constitution, 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. The primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order thus directly devolves on the State Governments. Nevertheless, the Central Government remains touch with the State Governments and constantly monitors and reviews the situation. As and when necessary suitable assistance is also provided to the State Governments.

Pending Applications for Telephone connections in Kerala

583. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections pending in Kerala; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to provide telephone connections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) The number of applications pending in Kerala as on 30-6-91 are—186724.

(b) About 40000 applicants are proposed to be given telephone connections during 1991-92 and remaining applicants are proposed to be provided telephone connections progressively during 8th Plan period.

Abduction of Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation

584. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmir militants abducted Shri K. Doraiswamy, Executive Director, Indian Oil Corporation on or about 29th June, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to ensure the safe and early release of the Indian Oil Corporation Director.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Shri K. Doraiswamy, Executive Director, IOC was abducted by terrorists on 28.6.1991 when he was on temporary duty in Srinagar for inspection of an IOC installation at Zewan, alongwith 5 other IOC Officers. The Officers was abducted on gun point in a taxi and immediately thereafter security forces cordoned

the area and conducted raids on suspected hide-outs.

Efforts to persuade the terrorists to release Shri Doraiswamy are continuing.

Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan

585. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met on Sunday 30th June, 1991, to prepare a joint plan of action to be pursued at the ensuing SAARC Standing Committee Meeting which was held on 2nd July, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the plan of action worked out therein; and

(c) the action since taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in the area of Electronic Switching

586. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Chambers of Commerce and Industry have pleaded that Government allow foreign investment with an export commitment in the area of electronic switching; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NADU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teachers of Punjabi University, Patiala, arrested after the death of Rajiv Gandhi

587. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of teachers of Punjabi University, Patiala arrested just after the death of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India;

(b) what were the charges against the arrested teachers; and

(c) when they were released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Government of Punjab, Prof. Sukh Dayal Singh and Prof. Surat Singh of the Punjabi University, Patiala, having links with the AISSF were arrested just after the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for raising anti-national slogans in the university. They were released on June 20 and June 25th 1991, respectively.

Private Sector Participation in Telecommunications

588. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek active private sector participation in telecommunications; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Yes Sir.