

lasting solution to the problem, a number of steps have been suggested to the State Government to make the administration more effective and achieve a sense of people participation and secure their cooperation and support in the fight against terrorism. They have also been asked to take steps to firmly deal with terrorist activities. The changes that may be required in the administrative set-up of the State for the purpose will, however, have to be made by the State Government themselves. All possible assistance is being extended to the State Government as and when required.

Observing 'Decade of the Girl Child'

624. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Heads of Governments of SAARC countries have decided to observe the coming decade as the 'Decade of the Girl Child'; and

(b) if so, what action plan has been prepared by Government for implementing this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) In the recently concluded Summit at Male, the Heads of State or Government decided that in order to maintain focus on the problems of the Girl Child, the years 1991-2000 AD should be observed as the "SAARC DECADE OF THE GIRL CHILD" regarding which action plan is under formulation by the Government.

Views expressed on Communal situation

625. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that some news papers have been indulging in communal propaganda, sometimes publishing blatant lies without verification

which has sparked off further violence during communal riots in several places; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against such papers for spreading false information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The State Governments and U.Ts. are vested with adequate powers to launch prosecutions against News-papers, periodicals and inflammatory writings preaching communal hatred in the press. Moreover any published material which promotes communal disharmony or feeling of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different communities can also be prescribed. The Central Government has issued instructions, from time to time, to States and UTs for strict enforcement of the legal provisions.

Request by various parties of Punjab to the Central Government

626. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether leaders of various political parties in Punjab have urged the Central Government to take immediate steps to solve the State's continuing problem and ask the Pak Government to stop fuelling militancy in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps contemplated by Government to tackle Punjab situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister held meetings on 7th and 8th December, 1990 in New Delhi with representatives of political parties from Punjab. The meetings were attended