

Newsitem on terrorist activities in India

1113. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express of the 16th April, 1989 under the caption 'Terrorist activities in India, Abu Nidal JRA (Japanese Red Army) hand suspected;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Abu Nidal Terrorist organisation is suspected to be involved in the attack on the Alitalia crew at Sahar Airport on March 25, 1988. The case is *sub judice*. However, all State Intelligence Immigration check posts have been alerted to maintain sharp vigil on the movement of suspected terrorist elements.

Total land covered by the sick textile mills in the country

1114. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey to find out the total land area with sick textile mills which are lying closed and different parts of the country; and

(b) what is the estimated value of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RA-FIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

'Bail factor' in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

1115. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement that appeared in Indian Express dated 16th April, 1989 wherein Shri V. K. Saraf, Police Commissioner, Bombay stated that bail factor in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPSA) made its enforcement difficult, as persons released on bail frequently disappear; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All major drug offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 were already non-bailable in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 by virtue of the level of punishments admissible. However, in view of reports that bail was being granted in such cases also, the need to strengthen the Act in this area had been felt. Accordingly, the Act has since been amended by the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988, *inter-alia* strengthening the provisions relating to grant of bail. The relevant section (section 37) provides that no person accused of an offence punishable for a term of imprisonment of 5 years or more under this Act shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless—

(i) the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release; and

(ii) where the Public Prosecutor opposes the application, the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

The enforcement agencies have already been advised to effectively oppose applications for grant of bail in drug trafficking cases.

Computerisation of State Bank of India Branches

1116. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent by the State Bank of India during the last three years on computerisation of various branches;

(b) what are the targets fixed by the SBI on computerisation during the next three years of the various branches;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large amount of foreign exchange has been spent by the State Bank of India in procuring computers from abroad and if so, what are the details in this regard with the names of Companies from where these computers have been purchased with the amount of foreign exchange incurred; and

(d) what are the names of Indian companies from where these computers have been purchased with the details of money spent on each of the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The State Bank of India has reported that a total amount of Rs. 6.54 crores had been paid to certain empanelled indigenous vendors for computerisation of its branches upto 31st December, 1988 and towards advance payment for further acquisition. It has not incurred any expenditure in foreign exchange in acquiring and installing the equipments for computerisation of its branches. As regards the targets fixed by State Bank of India

for the next three years for computerisation of its branches, it may be mentioned that the Reserve Bank of India has, in September, 1988, set up a Committee on Computerisation to prepare a perspective plan for computerisation of banks including State Bank of India for the next five years covering the period 1990—1994. The Committee is likely to submit its report soon.

Licences issued after enactment of arms (Amendment) Act, 1989.

1117. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of licences issued or renewed in Delhi after the enactment of the Arms (Amendment) Act, 1989;

(b) what is that number of applications pending for issuance of licences of renewal of the existing ones as on April 1, 1989;

(c) whether any representation has been received from a State Government that the said enactment infringes upon the authority of the State in the matter of grant of arms licences; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon and what procedure has been evolved for early disposal of applications of arms licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). No amendment to the Arms Act, 1959 was made in 1989. However, some amendments to the Arms Rules, 1962 were made on 24th January, 1989. These amendments, in the main, provide that licences for non-prohibited bore weapons shall be issued or renewed by the licensing authorities for the areas of their respective jurisdiction and in the case of licences having all-India validity issue or renewal thereof shall be done by the licensing authorities