

Security network in trains and at railway stations

2347. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken to strengthen the security network in and around the trains and the railway stations, in the aftermath of the July 11 Mumbai serial blasts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of implementation of the fresh proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways have taken the following measures in the aftermath of July 11 Mumbai serial bomb blasts to improve security arrangements at important and vulnerable stations:-

- (i) Installation of Close Circuit Televisions.
- (ii) Installation of modern security gadgets to strengthen and regulate movement at entry/exit points.
- (iii) Earmarking dog squads, bomb detection and disposal squads at various divisions/railway stations to check possible sabotage.
- (iv) Regulated entry of unauthorized persons in trains and in empty coaching rakes at originating/destination stations, before and after placements in maintenance sidings.

This Ministry has also asked the State Governments to improve coordination between Government Railway Police/State Police/State and Central Intelligence agencies so as to prevent any likely terrorist attacks on the Railway infrastructure and trains.

Legal framework for police to counter terrorism -

2348. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) that there is need for a

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more robust legal framework, to deal with sudden terror attacks, since police officials find themselves helpless to counter terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the reported statement of DIB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) What is discussed in the conference of Directors General of Police cannot be in bits and pieces, separated from one another and cannot be commented upon disjointedly, while replying to questions. Such an exercise creates confusions, rather than a solution to the problems. The government is always willing to tackle the essence in correct spirit and act upon it in a proper manner, without allowing the spirit to be distorted and misused.

Caste-based census

2349. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is considering to conduct a caste-based census; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) No caste-based census of the population has been undertaken in post-independence period and there is no proposal for conducting the caste-based census. The information on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been collected at each of censuses since 1951, for meeting the Constitutional requirement.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has requested the State Governments/Union Territories to conduct a survey to determine the number of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) as well as those amongst them living below the poverty line.