

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that some regional political parties/ groups in the country are attempting to disrupt communal harmony on the grounds of language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to take any concrete steps against such regional political parties/groups who are trying to disrupt communal harmony on the grounds of language; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) There have been media reports appearing from time to time regarding certain regional parties/groups indulging in provocative posturing/violence on the grounds of language. Supporters of these groups have been *inter-alia* seeking preference for sons-of-the-soil in jobs and admission to educational institutions. However, 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects under the Constitution of India, the primary responsibility of registration, investigation and prosecution of crime rests with the State Governments. Further, to maintain communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central para-military Forces to the concerned State Governments on specific request including the Rapid Action Force which has been created specially to deal with communal situations, and in the modernization of State Police Forces. In addition, the Union Government sends advisories in this regard from time to time. The Central Government has also circulated revised Guidelines to promote communal harmony, to the States and Union Territories in the month of June, 2008.

Deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants

1437. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent report that perpetrators of several recent terror attacks have links with Bangladesh, Government has launched an intensive drive to detect and deport illegal immigrants from the neighbouring countries living in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any concrete steps to deport such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Central Government is vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations. The procedure for the detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

Jail reforms

1438. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal of Government to modernize and reform overcrowded jails in the country has been turned down;
- (b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;
- (c) whether the facilities in various jails are pathetic and poorly maintained; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government proposes to take to bring jail reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) In order to improve the condition of prisons, prisoners and the prison staff, the Central Government launched a non plan scheme namely "Modernization of Prisons" in 2002-03 in 27 States with an outlay of Rs.1800 crore on a cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The main components of the scheme was:

- (i) Construction of new prison and additional barracks.
- (ii) Expansion, repair and renovation of existing prisons.
- (iii) Construction of staff quarters for prison persons.
- (iv) Improvement in sanitation and water supply.

The scheme now ceases to exist from 31.3.2009.

However, keeping in view the demands of various States/UTs to modernize the jails and to construct more jails to reduce overcrowding, a proposal for second phase of scheme of modernisation of prisons was formulated by Ministry of Home Affairs. The proposal was examined by the Committee of Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) in the Ministry of Finance. As outcome of CNE meeting it was decided not to go ahead with the second phase of scheme of modernisation of prisons for the time being owing to heavy commitment of Government of India on other important sectors.