

some time due to heavy congestion in the New York area resulting in higher consumption of fuel. Following the suggestion of the Flight Despatcher at New York, the Commander had decided to divert to Toronto because of the availability of maintenance facility at that airport. The aircraft landed safely at Toronto.

(b) A Departmental Inquiry has been held into the incident. The Commander has been suitably briefed for future guidance and has been given route checks on London/New York sector. Guidance has also been given to Commanders based at London.

Talks with leaders of the Assam Movement

*53. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADA
SWAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the talks with the leaders of the Assam movement on the issue of foreign nationals;

(b) whether any deadline has been fixed to resolve the issue; and

(c) if not, what are the main points on which differences have arisen and the different stands taken by Government and the movement leaders?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Considerable ground has been covered during the current series of discussions between the representatives of the Government and the agitation leaders. Government are hopeful that solutions acceptable to all concerned will be found at an early date.

Visit by the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany

*54. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany recently visited India; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During his meetings with Indian leaders, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany exchanged views on matters covering bilateral and international relations. It is hoped that as a result of this visit a fresh impetus will be given to bilateral economic and political relations and there will be a better mutual appreciation of our perceptions of international issues.

Compensation to the next of Kin of Victims of Violence and Military Action in Punjab

*55. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA
SULTAN:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pay Rs. 20000 to the next of kin of each victim of agitation and military action in Punjab;

(b) whether those killed in operation Blue Star are included therein; and

(c) what steps have been taken for the early implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) The Government of Punjab have decided to grant relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- to the next of kin of each of the persons who died in incidents of mob action, action by security forces, agitations etc. since 1st August, 1982. The next of kin of persons who were killed but did not actively participate/assist in resisting the action by the security forces during the Operation Blue Star will also be eligible for the grant of relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/-.

(c) A Committee has been set up by the State Government to ensure the implementation of the decision.

Terrorist activities against India from Pakistan

*56. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have urged the Government of Pakistan to take appropriate steps to prevent terrorist activities from across the border in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan has denied giving assistance to the terrorists. However, the facts are to the contrary and their reply is not satisfactory to us.

Decision making in the Central Government Offices

*57. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a plan to speed up decision making in the Central Government offices;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the plan is likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE: (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Ministries have been asked to take measures to speed up decision making. The suggested measures include decentralisation, increased delegation of powers, enforcement of accountability and simplification of rules and procedures. Ministries have been specially asked to review the time factor involved in the disposal of different types of references received by them to identify causes for delay and streamline procedures and set up suitable monitoring arrangements.

Curbing of Terrorist Activities by Pakistan and India

*58. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have held any discussion recently with the Government of Pakistan for curbing terrorism; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the discussion?