

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) With a view to settle the boundary dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, the Central Government constituted a one-man Mahajan Commission, which had submitted its report in August 1967. The dispute still persists since the Government of Karnataka insists on the implementation of the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission in toto, while Government of Maharashtra does not accept the Commission's recommendations. The approach of the Central Government in the matter has consistently been that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding.

Initiatives to contain Naxalism

242. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some fresh initiatives have been taken to meet the challenge posted to national security by Naxalites in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact the Centre are planning to provide special assistance to States for formation of State-level joint task forces for effective policing required to co-ordinate operations on both sides of the borders of States to curb the spread of Naxalism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the States likely to be covered by the joint task force (s) plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) (a) and (b) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with nexal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of

Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the effected areas and (d) removal of socio cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has constituted a Task Force on naxalism in the Ministry of Home Affairs in October, 2004 which *inter alia* reviews the anti-naxalite operations being undertaken by the naxal affected States including those across the State boundaries.

Assistance to Deserted Wives of NRIs

243. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deserted wives of Non-Resident Indians and their plight in India;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve their living conditions; and

(c) what the legal assistance, Government is giving to the victims and the steps taken to reunite them with their NRI husband?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Ministry of External Affairs, the State Governments have been asked to take remedial action including creation of separate cells to ensure free legal counselling for the prospective brides.

(c) Indian Missions and posts abroad, whenever they receive a complaint of torture or desertion of Indian wives by their NRI husbands, render all possible assistance with a view to bringing about an amicable settlement.