

country for the last two months has been on the increase; and

(g) if so, what is the total number of such incidents occurred in various parts of the country during the last two months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) The Harijantola of Pipra, Patna District, Bihar, was the scene of the killing of 13 Harijans in the night of 25/26 February, 1980. One more injured person succumbed to injuries later in the hospital.

(b) The atrocity, was committed by a mob from neighbouring villages. In addition to those who were killed, two Harijans were injured. The mob burnt 26 houses, 4 buffaloes, 2 goats and some poultry were also reported to have been burnt.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e) A case was instituted and expeditiously investigated. Charge-sheet in the case has been submitted in the Court on the 8th March.

(f) and (g) Information is being obtained from the State Governments/ Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Home Minister's visit to Patna

187. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE; WUI the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he made an air-dash to Patna following a reported armed mob attack on Pipra village near Patna in Bihar on 26th February, 1980;

(b) if so, what were his observations and findings; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken to prevent such mob attacks on Harijans in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Village Pipra, though within a distance of about 30 km. from Patna, is quite inaccessible due to bad communication. 26 Thatched huts of Harijans in the village were set on fire by a mob from neighbouring villages. Rugs soaked in kerosene and lit were thrown on the rooftops and when the occupants ran out, they were shot at close range. In all 14 persons lost their lives. Several cattle-heads also perished in the fire.

The attack on village Pipra was described as a revenge for the murder of one Bhola Singh, landlord of neighbouring village, Kalyanchack. The agricultural labourers of the village informed that the attack was in retaliation to their persistent demand for minimum wages fixed by the State Government.

More effective action by the administration in putting an end to such incidents in future, taking up adequate relief and rehabilitative measures, toning up of administration, enforcement of minimum Wages Act more vigorously, and speedy investigation were the important directives issued by the Home Minister for preventing recurrence of such incidents.

The Home Minister has written specially to State Governments and Union Territories, where crimes against Scheduled Castes have been occurring, communicating comprehensive guidelines on precautionary and preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures, to be taken to effectively deal with crimes against Scheduled Castes.

#### Disparity in promotion prospects of civilian and military officers

H88. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to star-

red Question 95 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1979 and to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to removing disparities in the promotional avenue<sub>a</sub> and ranks of armed forces personnel and the civilian officers; if \*o, what are the details therefor; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons herefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The promotional avenues of the various ranks of armed forces personnel are based upon to the organisational structure, the functional requirements and the terms and conditions peculiar to the Defence Services which in many cases are not comparable to those of civilian cadres. Government however have recently reviewed the career prospects in the armed forces and carried out a cadre review of officers upto the rank of Brigadier & equivalent in the other two Services to improve their promotional opportunities. Details are as follows:—

(i) Nearly 60 per cent prospects of career improvement for those in the rank of Majors and equivalents in the other two Services, 20 per cent of which will be through the introduction of a selection grade.

(ii) About 50 per cent prospects for career improvement for those in the rank of Lt-Cols and equivalents in the other two Services. This again will include 10 per cent through selection grade.

(iii) 125 posts of Lt-Colonels/Colonels in the Army have been upgraded to that of Brigadier. 10 posts of Group-Capt in the Air Force have been upgraded to that of Air Commodore. On the Navy side, the Government have agreed, in principle, to upgrade 52 posts from Commanders to that of Captain.

(iv) For officers in the rank of Major-General and above and their equivalents in the other two Services, the proposals are still under consideration.

#### **Death of a motor cyclist on Lodi Road, New Delhi**

189. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a motor cyclist was knocked down and killed by a mini-bus on 8th June, 1979 at about 10.30 p.m. near Lodi Road bus stand in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of the investigations made into the accident and the person apprehended in connection therewith; and

(c) whether the relations of the deceased had claimed that all his belongings which included over Rs. 4000/- in cash, wrist watch etc. were removed from his person; if so, what steps have been taken to restore the property to the relatives of the deceased and under what circumstances and by whom the dead body was brought to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A case vide FIR No. 115 dated 9-6-79 U/S 279/337/304-A IPC was registered at Police Station Lodhi Colony. During investigation it was found that Shri Parveen Soni, a resident of Shakarpur Extension, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, driving Motor Cycle No. DLP 2661 was fatally hit by a Mini Bus bearing registration No. DLP 8584, under DTC operation, near the bus stand on 4th Avenue Road, in the area of P. S. Lodhi Colony, around 10.35 p.m. on 8-6-79. The scene of the accident was photographed and the vehicles were got mechanically inspected. The accused Karan Singh driver of the Mini bus, was arrested, and was challaned.