

[23 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

On the development side, the Central Government has advised the States to accord a higher priority in their annual plans for the accelerated integrated development of the naxal affected districts. On its part, the Central Government has included 55 districts in 9 States badly affected by naxalism under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

Rejection of rehabilitation plan by Andaman tribals

2371. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman tribals have rejected the rehabilitation plan drawn up by Government in the wake of Tsunami;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have discussed the matter in the light of objections, if any; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No, Madam. On the contrary, keeping in view the sentiments and lifestyle of local tribals, the specifications and design of 'intermediate shelters' have been finalized in consultation with local Tribal Councils. The actual construction in tribal areas will be executed by the beneficiaries themselves with construction material and other support services to be made available by the Central Government and A & N Administration.

Making online lottery illegal

2372. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government differentiated the online lotteries and paper lotteries in the Central Act and whether the Act imposes any restrictions on online lotteries;

(b) whether Government consider that an addictive aspect of gambling is involved in online lotteries and hence it requires restriction;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government consider to amend the Lotteries Act for making online lotteries illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 does not differentiate between online lotteries and paper lotteries. The policy of the Union Government has all along been against holding or authorisation of lotteries or extending official support to lotteries in any form and for any purpose, howsoever laudable, on the ground that it encourages the spirit of gambling and disturbs the normal economic equilibrium especially in poor families. Therefore, the Union Government neither organizes any lottery of its own, nor does it permit the Union Territory Administrations to organize any lottery. However, since there has been no consensus for banning the lotteries at the national level as some States want to continue with it on the ground that it provides revenue to them, the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December, 1999 could not be passed till now. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, to whom the said Bill was referred to, has *inter alia*, recommended that efforts should be made to evolve larger political consensus on the issue.

Killing of naxalites in Karnataka

2373. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few naxalites were killed recently in Chickmagalur (Karnataka) during a police encounter;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have proposed to deploy STF personnel in the district to combat insurgency despite the fact that naxalism is in its infancy in the State;

(c) whether there has been resentment among the people over Government's move to deploy STF to tackle naxalism which is considered a socio-economic problem; and

(d) whether the Centre would prevail upon the State to attempt solving such issues through dialogue?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Two naxalites were killed in a police encounter on February 6, 2005 in district Chickmagalur.

(b) and (c) In the wake of the encounter, Citizens Initiative for Peace activists met the Chief Minister, Karnataka and, *inter alia*, urged not to deploy the STF.