

(a) whether sometime in September this year a large area within Behala Police Station in West Bengal was placed under curfew for 16 hours and a large number of houses in that area were searched;

(b) what is the extent of the area that was so placed under curfew and what was the number of houses so searched;

(c) what were the reasons and circumstances for which the curfew was enforced and the houses searched;

(d) whether similar curfew and search took place also in Krishnanagar in Nadia District and Asansol in Burdwan District of West Bengal; and

(e) if so, under what circumstances and for what reason?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). Following the information that some Naxalites, involved in the murder of a policeman, were getting shelter in houses in the locality and that many persons were giving shelter out of fear, curfew was imposed in an area of 10 square miles in Behala on 11th September from 00.00 hours to 18.00 hours. 30 houses were searched and 12 persons were arrested

(d) and (e) Similar curfews were imposed in Krishnanagar and in Asansol in order to organise searches and apprehend persons who were wanted in connection with the murders of some policemen. In Asansol, however, the curfew did not exceed eight hours on any occasion.

FRESH CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL FOR ABOLITION OF PRIVY PURSES

763. SHRI K. CHANDR ASEKHA-RAN; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a fresh Constitution Amendment Bill for the abolition of Privy Purses given to the Rulers of former Princely States; and

(b) whether Government also propose to introduce any legislation pertaining to the abolition of privileges, amenities and allowances of the Rulers, their dependent relations and their families?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDEHI): (a) and (b). Government will be in a position to take a final decision about legislation on matters relating to the former Rulers only after the Supreme Court's judgment in the writ petitions challenging the orders of derecognition have been carefully examined.

GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATURES

764. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conference of Presiding Officers of Legislatures in India laid down any guidelines for determining the confidence of the State Legislature enjoyed by the Chief Minister of State;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines; and

(c) what are the instances in which these guidelines have been applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). In the resolution adopted by the conference of Presiding Officers on 7th April, 1968, the Central Government were requested to take steps to evolve conventions in regard to the powers of Governors to summon or prorogue the Legislatures and to dismiss Ministries in the light of the following observations:—

"(i) That a Governor shall summon or prorogue the Legislature on the advice of the Chief Minister. A convention shall be developed that the Chief Minister may fix the dates of summoning and prorogation after consulting the Presiding Officers concerned. The Governor