

(a) what measures on the ground have Government taken to track the reported cooperation among domestic extremist groups in various States and the external groups in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) whether Government have clear-cut policy to deal with such matters endangering country's internal security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government remains committed to effectively combat the threat of terrorism including its external dimensions.

The Government has taken various measures such as strengthening the border management, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, close coordination between different agencies of the Centre and the State Governments and neutralizing plans of terrorists so as to deal with various aspects of terrorism.

Besides, the Government has put in place bilateral mechanisms with a number of countries including the neighbouring ones to discuss security and terrorism related issues.

Abductions by ULFA

*307. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons reported to have been abducted by the members of United Liberation Front of Assam during the last two years;

(b) how many of them have been freed/killed during that period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a few NRIs are still in the custody of the United Liberation Front and if so, the details thereof and steps taken for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has reported that 21 persons were kidnapped by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) during the last 2 years (between 1.1.2003 to 16.12.2004). Out of 21 kidnapped persons 16 persons were either rescued or released by the ULFA and 5 persons were killed by them. As on 16.12.2004, no Non-Resident Indian (NRI) was reported in the custody of ULFA.