

[22 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Procedure Code. It is not possible to say in exact terms which sections would be amended. The present Government would be able to say which sections would be amended only after taking a final decision in this respect.

Celebratory firings at weddings

*315. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of menace of celebratory firings at weddings resulting in many cases of death of innocent people from stray bullets fired on such occasions;

(b) in how many cases offenders were punished and their licences cancelled by Government during the last three years in Delhi;

(c) whether it is a fact that Delhi is home to 60,000 weapon owners of whom 18,000 have not got their licences renewed; and

(d) if so, in what manner Delhi Police's Licensing Department propose to ensure issuing of firearms licences to only those who have proper training to use arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Delhi Police has registered four cases in connection with firings that took place during wedding celebrations resulting in death of four persons in Delhi during the years 2001,2002,2003 and up to 30th November, 2004.

(b) Out of the aforesaid four cases, three are pending trial and one is pending investigation. Arms licences in three cases have been **suspended** and show cause notices have been issued to the persons concerned **for** cancellation of their licenses. No action could be taken to cancel the license in the fourth case as the same was issued by the licensing authority of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the gun used in firing has been seized and deposited in the Malkhana.

(c) Out of 60,495 arms licenses (including 9,238 outside licenses registered in Delhi), 24,838 licenses had not been renewed as on 30th November, 2004.

(d) In order to ensure that licenses for Non Prohibited Bore(NPB) weapons are issued only in deserving cases, the following actions are taken:

(i) Verification of the character and antecedents of the applicants;

- (ii) Interviewing the applicants by the Licensing Authority and the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned to assess the genuineness of the need for having a weapon; and
- (iii) In cases where the applicant is found to be lacking in knowledge for handling the weapon for which the license is required, he/she is asked to produce a certificate from an authorized trainer/renowned shooter after undergoing necessary training for handling weapons.

Misuse of foreign funding

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

- (a) how many political parties or social organizations of Kerala have been allowed to receive foreign funding;
- (b) whether Government observe that the money received through the foreign assistance was used for anti-national activities;
- (c) whether any such instances have been brought into the notice of Government from Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government propose to impose a restraint or restriction on foreign funding in view of its possible misuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Under the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, political parties are prohibited from accepting any foreign contribution. As on 15th Dec. 2004, 2514 organizations had been registered and 11 organizations were granted prior permission in the State of Kerala to receive foreign contribution under aforesaid Act.

(b) and (c) No such instances have so far come to the Notice of the Government.

(d) Act empowers the Central Government to take action against recipient organizations which are found contravening the provisions of the Act, including acceptance of foreign contribution without registration or prior permission, or not properly utilizing it for the stated purposes and objectives. The action includes placing the organization in the prior permission category, prohibiting it from receiving any foreign contribution, freezing its bank account and prosecuting it in a court of law.