

[26 July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Central Government to prevent these incidents?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) There have been some incidents of violence aimed at Christian and their institutions in the recent past in some parts of the country, but most of the incidents, however, relate to law and order/ crime. Details of such incidents during the period from Jan. 1998 onwards, are given in Annexure [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 3(b) Sapra]

(c) and (d) The incidents of violence against the Christians and their institutions have been comparatively higher in Uttar Pradesh, only during the period March to June 2000, of course without any specific reasons.

(e) As per the provisions of the VII Schedule List-II-State List of the Constitution of India; law and order is a State subject. However, the Central Govt, shares intelligence inputs and sends advisories and alert message to the States from time to time. Revised guidelines for the promotion of communal harmony have been issued in October, 1997, the Central Para Military Forces are made available on specific requests and a special force called the Rapid Action Force has been deployed to deal exclusively with the communal violence. Assistance is also being provided for modernization of the policing infrastructure.

A high level meeting was convened on 04.07.2000 to review the situation, and the State Govts, have once again been urged to provide security to the minorities and their institutions and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.

The Home Minister addressed a meeting of the State Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Directors General of Police on 28th June, 2000 where he strongly condemned all such incidents of attacks on Christians and their institutions and urged the State Governments to apprehend the culprits quickly so that the guilty, irrespective of who they are, could be brought to book.

Extorsion by ULFA and NDFB in Assam

364. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some business houses in Assam are being extorted by ULFA and NDFB;

(b) whether the State Government has taken adequate measures in this respect; and

(c) what steps the Central Government propose to take to stop this obnoxious practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Some cases of extortion of money from business houses in Assam by the militant outfits including ULFA and NDFB have come to the notice of the Government. Where ever the cases of extortions are reported, action is taken to nab the extortionists and prosecute them as per law. Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, *inter-alia*, deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations and declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Human Massacre in Bihar

† 365. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item published in the "Dainik Jagran" dated the 5th June, 2000 under the caption "Bihar mein fir Nar Sanhar", togetherwith the measures taken by Government to prevent the same; and

(b) the number of homicides committed, year-wise and location-wise, in Bihar during the last five years; the number of dacoities committed location-wise, the number of people killed by extremists, the number of houses burnt to ashes, togetherwith the measures taken to check the recurrence of all these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Legislative measure to replace TADA

366. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a new legislative

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.