

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take or have taken to counter this move of ISI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Pak ISI has been sponsoring terrorism in the country and extending all kinds of support including weapons, financial assistance, arms training etc. to the militant outfits operating in the country. Recent instances are indicative of increased presence and movement of militants, particularly the foreign mercenaries in J & K with briefing for targeting security forces and undertaking suicide missions wherever necessary.

(d) Government have adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of militants which includes strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by coordinated intelligence action, setting up of outposts of security forces and modernisation and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. Steps taken in this regard have resulted in detection/neutralisation of various Pak ISI backed modules.

Internal Threat by ISI

351. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact according to him, there is a ISI sponsored serious internal threat developing in the country;

(b) if so, whether some extremist organisations are openly alienating the minority community by inflammatory speeches, accusation and violence; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb these anti-social and anti-India elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Pak ISI is involved in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country.

"Public order" and "Police" are State subjects and it is primarily for the concerned State Government to take appropriate action to counter the activities of militant/extremist elements aided and abetted by ISI.

The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, wherever necessary.

Government has taken various steps to combat the sinister designs of Pak ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by Central and State agencies.

Progress of Talks on J&K

352. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the talks between the Central Government, Government of Jammu and Kashmir and leaders of the militant groups invited for talks; and

(b) the details of the militant outfits invited for talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No such talks have been held.

Negative Impact of Attack on Christians

353. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attacks on Christians in the country are increasing;

(b) whether Government have identified any organisation which is behind such attacks; and

(c) whether such attacks on Christians are not sending a negative message to the international community which has an image of India as a secular country where all religions have co-existed for hundreds of years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.D. SWAMI): (a) Although there is no overall increase in the incidents of violence involving the minorities, however some isolated incidents involving the Christians and their institutions have recently taken place. Most of them relate to law and order/crime.

(b) With regard to the recent series of bomb blast in Church premises in States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa, the involvement of an