

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments, who deal with the various issues related to public order and security. The Central Government closely monitors the situation and supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of schemes, *interalia*, including reimbursement of expenditure incurred on security by the State Governments, under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme.

The State Governments appoint Special Police Officers (SPOs) under the Police Act, 1861 as well as under the relevant State Police Acts, wherever they have been enacted. The SPOs' appointment, training, deployment, role and responsibility are determined by the State Governments concerned. The role of Central Government is limited only to the approval of upper limit of the number of SPOs for the purpose of reimbursement of honorarium under the SRE Scheme for the seven Left Wing Extremist affected States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of North East.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* judgement dated 5th July, 2011 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 250 of 2007 — Ms. Nandini Sundar and others versus State of Chhattisgarh — has, *interalia*, directed the Government of Chhattisgarh to immediately cease and desist from using SPOs in anti-naxalite operations, and to forthwith make every effort to recall all firearms issued to the SPOs. A direction has also been given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Central Government to cease and desist, forthwith, from using any of its funds in supporting, directly or indirectly the recruitment of SPOs by the State Governments for operations against the naxalites/Maoists.

The Government of India is examining the matter in consultation with Ministry of Law.

Providing helicopters to Orissa for anti-naxal operations

* 156. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assured the Government of Orissa to provide two dedicated IAF MI-17 helicopters to supplement its anti-naxalite efforts; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof and by when the helicopters will be made available to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (b) At present, a total of 09 helicopters have been provided to support the security forces deployed in LWE affected States including Orissa. Out of these, 04 MI-17 helicopters of Indian Air Force are located at Chhattisgarh; 02 each at Raipur and Jagdalpur. Out of 05 Dhruva helicopters of BSF, 03 are placed at Raipur in Chhattisgarh and 02 at Ranchi in Jharkhand. These helicopters are available as per operational requirements for use in all LWE affected States, including Orissa. The need to provide dedicated air support to Orissa has been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The State Government of Orissa needs to put in place necessary infrastructure to operate these helicopters, including the provision of Browsers.

The needs of Government of Orissa will be considered once additional helicopters are available and necessary infrastructure is put in place by the State Government.

Caste based census

†*157. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had assured census on the basis of caste;

(b) whether it is also a fact that instead of caste-based census of the entire population, caste-based census only of people living below the poverty line is being done;

(c) whether Government will conduct caste based census of people of all castes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, Government of India has decided to conduct a Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of the entire population of the country. In Socio Economic and Caste Census, 2011, the caste of all persons in the country alongwith socio-economic profile is being collected.

(c) Yes, Sir, the SECC has commenced in Tripura, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Puducherry. The other States/UTs are being covered in a phased manner.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.