sell their products directly to the buyers. So far, 2527 marketing events have been sanctioned during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, generating sales of about Rs. 1117.2 crore. Besides, the weavers and their organisations have also been helped in participating in 68 international trade events during Eleventh Plan, generating sales and trade enquiries worth about Rs. 491.23 crore.

(iii) **Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme**: This consists of two separate sub schemes *viz*. the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident. Under Health Insurance Scheme, 16.11 lakh families of handloom weavers and workers were covered during the policy period of 2009-10. During the policy period 2010-11, 7.07 lakh weavers' families have been covered so far out of the proposed 17.97 lakh families of handloom weavers and workers. Under MGBBY, 5.11 lakh handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 and 5.21 lakh handloom weavers were enrolled during 2010-11.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme: This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers and to optimize their employment potential. During the Eleventh Plan, so far, 3893.62 lakh kg. of yarn valuing Rs. 3783.58 crore has been supplied to the handloom weavers under the Scheme.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme: This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill-upgradation of weavers, design inputs and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers.

Hiring of SPOs in States

*155. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Special Police Officers (SPOs) have been hired due to shortage of manpower in the Para-Military Forces under the Police Act of 1861; and

(b) whether Government proposes to stop hiring of Special Police Officers and recruit on a regular basis to complete the shortage?

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?