

Maoist activists moving to jungles of Western Ghats

3619. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are intelligence reports that the Maoist activists have moved to the jungles of Western Ghats and using the border areas of Kerala and Karnataka as hide-outs ever since the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched the “Operation Green Hunt” against naxalites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken to meet the situation;

(c) whether it is a fact that Kerala is yet to constitute an elite police force to tackle any naxalite problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what kind of help is being extended to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The CPI (Maoist) are making forays into Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu under the supervision of their South West Regional Bureau and planning to link up the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats through these States. Their plans include creating a base on the border of Kerala and Karnataka. The CPI (Maoist) cadres, active in the Wayanad district of Kerala, have also been known to engage in efforts aimed at establishing a forest route from Wayanad district to Mysore district of Karnataka. The CPI (Maoist) are gradually expanding their activities in these States. The Government of India has sensitized the State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in this regard and has also advised them to take necessary preventive and pre-emptive measures to foil the efforts of the CPI (Maoist) aimed at revival of its movement in these States.

(c) In order to counter naxalism in the State, Kerala has raised one India Reserve (IR) Battalion, whose commando component is an elite force. However, Kerala has not created a dedicated force to exclusively deal with LWE.

(d) ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ being State subjects, action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has a holistic approach towards combating Left Wing Extremism (LWE) wherein it supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of development schemes, improving governance and capacity building by the States in various areas. It is the belief of the Government of India that a combination of calibrated police action, focused development efforts and improvement

in governance will yield the desired result against Left Wing Extremism (LWE). This strategy and philosophy is applicable to the State of Kerala also. However, at present no assistance is being provided to Kerala under the LWE related schemes of Government of India. Kerala is being provided assistance under the Scheme of Modernization of Police Forces of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Attacks on civil administration officials in Maoist affected areas

3620. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the attacks on the civil administration officials have increased recently in the Maoist affected areas;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents taken place during the current year;
- (c) whether such attacks have affected the development works including the special plan for the insurgent affected districts being taken up recently; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the CPI (Maoist) are indulging in attacks on the civil administration officials in their areas of influence. In the current year, major incidents of attacks on civil administration officials are given below:

- (i) Attack on SDO Garhwa and BDO Bhandaria on 21.01.2012 near Tinbhitiha in Bhandaria PS area of district Garhwa, Jharkhand.
- (ii) Abduction of 04 railway employees on 30.01.2012 at Bhansi railway station, Dantewada, Chhattisgarh.
- (iii) Attack on District Magistrate of Bijapur district and the MLA of Bijapur on 20.4.2012 near Pegdapalli, PS Madded, district Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.
- (iv) Abduction of Shri Alex Paul Menon, District Magistrate of Sukma district on 21.04.2012 in Manjhipara, PS and district Sukma, Chhattisgarh.

(c) to (d) The attack and abduction of civil administration officials, elected representatives, foreign tourists and collectors indicate a determined effort on the part of the CPI (Maoist) to stall the development effort in affected districts. They seek to prevent poor and marginalized section of the society in their areas of dominance from joining the mainstream development process. Such actions by the CPI (Maoist) are short-term setbacks and the Government is determined to continue with its efforts to combat LWE in a holistic manner.