

(c) and (d) The Central Government is fully committed to effectively deal with naxal menace in coordination with the State Governments concerned. However, '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, who deal directly with the various issues related to LWE activities in the States. The Central Government has a two-pronged approach towards combating LWE. It supplements the efforts of State Governments through security related and development related interventions. In security related interventions, apart from directly deploying CAPFs, the Government of India provides assistance for capacity building by the states through schemes like the Security Related Expenditure scheme, the Special Infrastructure Scheme, Construction of Fortified Police Stations etc. Other security related interventions include setting up of Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorism (CIAT) schools; modernization and upgradation of the State Police and their Intelligence apparatus under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF scheme); sharing of intelligence; etc. In the development front, the Central Government is implementing special schemes for LWE affected areas like the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), the Road Requirement Plan-I etc. 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 results against LWE. A decline has been noticed in the LWE violence in Chhattisgarh in 2011. During the current year also, LWE violence in the state has come down compared to the corresponding period of 2011. In 2012 (up to August 15), 252 incidents of LWE violence have been reported resulting in the death of 85 civilians/security forces personnel, compared to 286 incidents and 124 deaths in the corresponding period of 2011. Most of the civilians killed by LWE are tribals.

#### **Illegal interception of phone calls**

2708. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked all the State Governments to furnish a list of off-air interceptors to tap telephone conversations in an effort to put an end to instances of illegal phone tapping;

(b) if so, the details of information furnished by the State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether Government has also received representatives about illegal intercepting of phone calls by several agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A press release was given by DoT on 31.12.2010 and a public notice was issued on 22nd March, 2011 as well as on 28.7.2012 that possession and use of such equipment is against the provisions of Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and is liable to be punished with imprisonment for the term which may extend up to three years or with fine, or with both. Independently, the State Governments and other LEAs were also sensitized and directed to make special efforts to locate and seize such equipment which has no authorisation. This is still in process as the Central Intelligence Agencies had brought out the fact that equipment used for 'Off the Air' GSM monitoring equipment is a dual use item which may/is also needed/used in the legitimate operations of telecom Service Providers and others.

(c) to (d) In 2010, 'Outlook' magazine published allegation about phone tapping. Union Home Minister in his statement in the Lok Sabha on 26th April, 2010 had *inter alia* informed the Hon'ble House that "I Wish to state categorically that no telephone tapping or eavesdropping on political leaders was authorised by the previous UPA Government. Nor has the present UPA Government authorised any such activity."

#### **Fire safety in high rise buildings**

2709. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at the Punjab National Bank Headquarters at Parliament Street on 23 May, 2012 resulting in huge losses of properties etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper fire fighting systems were not available at the PNB building resulting in huge loss of properties;

(d) if so, whether several high rise buildings in the city are not equipped with the fire fighting systems and posing threat to the lives of persons living/working in such buildings; and