

Youths recruited as SPOS in J and K

1476. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Jammu and Kashmir a large number of youths were recruited as Special Police Officials (SPOs) to fight against terrorists and form Village Defence Committee (VDC) and Block Development Council (BDC);

(b) whether the army officer with whom they worked in operation recommended their name to select them in Police;

(c) whether PO named Yogesh Kumar, Belt No. 1035 killed 12 terrorists along with army and was recommended by the Army for the post of constable;

(d) the status of his case; and

(e) the policy of Government with regard to VDC and BDC and steps proposed for making these more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statutory development board for North Maharashtra

1477. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal of constitution of a separate Statutory Development Board for North Maharashtra which is long pending with the Central Government;

(b) whether to constitute the Board, an amendment is required to Article 371(2)(a) of the Constitution;

(c) if so, whether Government is planning to amend Article 371(2)(a); and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) Sir, The Government of Maharashtra, had requested

Government of India in February, 2007 to take necessary steps to amend Article 371(2) of the Constitution to set up a separate Statutory Development Board for North Maharashtra covering the five districts of Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nashik and Ahmednagar. Planning Commission has not supported the proposal for setting up a separate Statutory Development Board for North Maharashtra in Maharashtra. There is no proposal, at present, to amend Article 371(2)(a) of the Constitution of India to provide for establishment of a separate Development Board for North Maharashtra.

Damage due to floods and cyclone in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

1478. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the huge devastation caused by the recent floods and cyclone Phailin in the States of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Central teams have been deputed to assess the damages and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central teams have submitted their reports and if so, the key findings and recommendations; and

(d) whether Government has sanctioned any interim relief to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha for relief and rehabilitation operations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Upon receipt of the memorandum from the State Government of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) visited the affected areas of Odisha from 28th to 31st October 2013 and Andhra Pradesh from 17th-21st November 2013 for an on-the-spot assessment of damages caused by the cyclone 'Phailin' and subsequent flood of 2013. The reports of the IMCT are being placed before the sub-committee of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the High Level Committee (HLC) for consideration in its meeting to be held shortly.

(d) In order to supplement the efforts of these two States, the Government