

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has taken a number of steps to deal with the Militancy in the North Eastern States and concerted efforts are being made by the State Governments in the region to counter such activities of the underground militant groups. The Central Government is supplementing their efforts through various measures such as deployment of additional Central security forces for carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable installations and projects, based on threat assessment; sharing of intelligence, financial assistance for strengthening of the local police forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization scheme; through the scheme of Security Related Expenditure for strengthening various aspects of security; raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc. The Central Government is maintaining close and continuous coordination with State Governments in the region. As a result, the violence level due to militancy is reducing gradually and many outfits have surrendered after laying down arms.

**Law to stop superstition and its publicity**

†1459. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enact a legislation like the one in Maharashtra to stop superstition and prevention of its publicity; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime. Accordingly, the concerned State Government enforces their local/special laws to stop superstition and prevention of its publicity.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.