

**Villagers affected by riots in Muzaffarnagar**

†1614. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villagers affected by riots in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh living in relief camps and the details thereof;

(b) whether the people living in these relief camps belong to the same community;

(c) whether infants and children living in these relief camps have died due to cold and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action taken against the administration responsible for the death of infants and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported to have initially set up 58 relief camps in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli Districts for the riot affected persons in which about 50955 persons were sheltered. As per the latest available information received from the State Government, 2516 persons are still living in 2 (two) regular relief camps and 4 (four) Satellite camps in Shamli District. No relief camp is reported to be operative in Muzaffarnagar District. The data regarding communities of persons living in camps is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) As per report from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the death of 33 children upto the age of 15 years was reported to a Committee set up by the State Government in response to directions of the hon'ble Supreme Court in a Writ Petition. However, there was no available documentary evidence for the number of deaths as well as reasons for the same. The action etc. against the administration rests with the State Government only.

**Probe into paid news**

1615. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of paid news detected during assembly elections during last three years along with the average percentage that paid news accounts for in total election expenses;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.