

In continuation of the same, O.M. No. 12019/03/2014-O.L.(Deposited) dated 10.03.2014 has been issued to all Ministries/Department/Subordinate Offices/Undertakings/Corporations/Banks and officials of Government of India to use Official Language Hindi or bilingual (Hindi and English) on official accounts of social media. It was also requested to issue necessary directions to all the attached/subordinate offices/undertakings etc. located in 'A' Region *i.e.* Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and UTs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In compliance of the above Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No 11020/01/2013-Hindi dated 27th May, 2014.

Expert group to examine pricing policy of petroleum products

*56. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up an Expert Group or Committee to examine the pricing policy of petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, and to recommend a viable and sustainable strategy;

(b) if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for giving its recommendations; and

(c) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations and if already submitted, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted an Expert Group on 12th June, 2013 to advise on Pricing Methodology for Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh. The Expert Group in its report submitted to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 30th October, 2013, has *inter-alia* recommended continuation of the existing pricing mechanism based on TPP/IPP for sensitive petroleum products and a policy of phased increase in the price of Diesel, LPG and Kerosene combined with expansion of direct cash transfer scheme so as to reduce the level of subsidies and bring down the diversion of the same.

Air support for security forces in Maoist affected areas

*57. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to seek air support for the security forces operating in the areas affected by the Maoist insurgency;

(b) whether the concerned State Governments have been consulted in this connection; and

(c) whether Government is going to call the Chief Ministers of the affected States for a conference to decide the future strategy on combating Maoist activities in some States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) At present, a total number of 11 helicopters of both Indian Air Force and Border Security Force have been provided to support the security forces deployed in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. Out of these, 6 MI-17 helicopters of Indian Air Force are located at Ranchi in Jharkhand, Raipur and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh. Out of 5 Dhruva helicopters of BSF, 3 are placed at Raipur and 2 at Ranchi. These helicopters are available for use as per operational requirements in all Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. In addition, the LWE affected States have been permitted to hire helicopters under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, on need basis.

The availability of helicopters acts as an important force multiplier and helicopters are extremely useful to the security forces in casualty evacuation and movement of reinforcement in times of need. However, divulging any strategic plan of the Government regarding increasing or widening the role of air support or otherwise, to combat Maoist insurgency will not be in the interest of National Security.

(c) Yes, Sir. Meetings with the Chief Ministers and the Chief Secretaries/Director Generals of Police of the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States are held from time to time to review and monitor various security and development related measures adopted to deal with LWE insurgency. In these meetings, strategy and tactics to be adopted to combat LWE insurgency are also discussed. The last such meeting was held on 5.06.2013.

Amenities and security arrangements at temples and monuments

*58. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken for providing amenities to the tourists visiting temples and monuments during the last three years and the current year in Telangana State;

(b) the year-wise and State-wise details of allocation and expenditure incurred on the same during the above period including Telangana State; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to provide adequate security to such monuments including in Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There are 137 centrally protected monuments under the