

[7 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Use of sophisticated technology by terrorists

*58. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security personnel have seized a "card bomb" from a militant hideout in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the terrorists are using sophisticated technology in preparing bombs like card bomb, cricket bomb and pen bomb etc; and

(c) what are the preparations of Government to counter international terrorism of this order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As per available reports, Security Forces (SFs) have recovered a card bomb on 16.6.2004 from a terrorist killed in an encounter with SFs at Police Station Surankot, District Poonch. Earlier on 6.12.2003, SFs recovered arms/ammunition including one pencil pistol with 2 bullets from suspected terrorist in Kupwara.

The changing security situation in the State of J&K and available intelligence inputs are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in meetings of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups at various levels to meet the emerging threats and ground level requirements of fighting the terrorists. Security forces at the field level are accordingly kept sensitized to keep watch against use of small dangerous arms and any related technological developments in the possession of terrorist.

Low priority accorded to poverty alleviation programme

*59. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty alleviation programme has been given a low priority;

(b) if so, the progress made under the Integrated Rural Development Programme meant for the poorest of the poor;

(c) the shortcomings detected in the Food for Work Programme; and