

[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

(d) the steps taken to use surplus grain for the poorest of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The poverty alleviation programmes have been accorded increasing priority over the years. This is evident from the fact that the Central allocation for rural development programmes has been increased from Rs. 9751 crore during 1999-2000 to Rs. 14070 crore during the year 2003-04. Further, against the Central allocation of Rs. 14070 crores an amount of Rs. 19228 crore was released to the States/UTs for implementation of various rural development schemes during the year 2003-04.

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a holistic self-employment programmes in rural areas *w.e.f.* April, 1999, after restructuring the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied programmes. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. It is a credit linked scheme wherein credit is the key element and subsidy being an enabling component. 20.19 lakhs Self Help Groups have been formed and 45.81 lakhs Swarozgaris have been assisted with a total investment of Rs.9522.15 crore since inception of the scheme.

With effect from 1.4.2002, the Food for Work Programme is being implemented as a special component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), a wage-employment programme. The main problems which have been noticed in the implementation of this programme include difficulties in timely, regular and adequate supply of foodgrains in deficit areas which delays payment of wages and logistics problems in movement of foodgrains. Some States have difficulties in arranging cash payment under special component of the SGRY where only foodgrains are given free of cost by the Centre. The SGRY and the Special Component of the SGRY are part of Governments efforts to utilize surplus foodgrains.