

**Killing of persons involved in fight against superstition**

1166. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of many persons involved in the fight against superstitions, retrograde practices etc. being killed wantonly, Central Government has adopted any step to stem this tide;

(b) how many such incidents have occurred in the country during last year and this year so far; and

(c) what steps Government has adopted and intends to adopt to prevent occurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, it is the primary duty of the State Governments to prevent, detect, register and investigate crime and prosecute the criminals. No data in respect of persons involved in the fight against superstitions, retrograde practices etc. being killed wantonly, has been maintained by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as well as National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

**Illegal trade and seizure of explosives in Jharkhand**

1167. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal trade and seizure of explosives in Jharkhand which is mostly used illegally in stone mines and terror activities, especially in Pakur;

(b) if so, the details of quantity of explosives seized in last five years and the action being taken for prevention of illegal trade;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted or pending before the District Authority in last five years in Pakur against the explosives suppliers trading illegally in Pakur and adjoining areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In Pakur district, Jharkhand, explosives are being used by mine lessees for stone mining. In the last five

years, the State Government of Jharkhand has seized major explosives in Pakur such as detonators (approx. 4704 nos.), gelatin (rods-approx. 7192) and ammonium nitrate (approx. 14865 kg.) besides certain other explosive items. The State Government has taken action against the offenders for illegal trade of explosives under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of Explosive Substances Act. Details of such seizures by the State Government are not maintained centrally.

The State Government regularly monitor the situation, conduct raids against persons involved in illegal trade of explosive items, and initiates appropriate action as per law. Besides, the Central Government has prescribed/adopted various steps such as online accounting of possession and use of explosives by the licence holder, online return system to monitor the transaction of Ammonium Nitrate right from manufacturer to the user end, and issuance of guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures/Advisories to State Government concerned on issues related to explosives.

(c) and (d) The State Government has arrested 44 persons in 32 cases under various sections of IPC and Explosive Substances Act due to involvement in illegal trade of explosives etc. in Pakur in the last five years.

#### **Vacancies in police force**

1168. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of sanctioned strength and current vacancies in police force in the country, as on date;

(b) whether there is a shortage of police force in the country;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to develop and improve the overall standards of police force in the country;

(d) the year-wise total amount allocated, disbursed and spent on the development of police force in the last five years; and

(e) whether the Committee on Home Affairs had recommended to explore the possibility of special recruitment drives to overcome the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per data compiled by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), as on 1.1.2014 against total sanctioned strength of 2,283,646 Police personnel in all the States and Union Territories, 1,722,786 personnel were in position leading to a shortfall of 560,860 personnel. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).