

internal security of the country to Central Reserve Police Force has been postponed in some of the States for now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the phase-wise progress of the this scheme so far, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the whole process and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The responsibility of maintenance of law and order and internal security lies with the State Governments. Central Police Forces are provided to assist State Governments for discharging these responsibilities. The main Central Police Force raised for such duties is CRPF. In addition Assam Rifles and Rashtriya Rifles, under Army's operational control, are also responsible for internal security. Government approved augmentation of the forces in a phased manner over a period of five years commencing from 2000-01. The raisings for the first four years have been sanctioned and some units have been raised. With deployment of these newly raised units, some units of the border guarding forces have been reverted to their primary role. Keeping in view the operational exigencies, some replacement planned earlier, has been temporarily stayed. It is not in public interest to indicate further details.

(c) and (d) With the augmentation of CRPF in a phased manner and if the security situation remains as assessed at the time of sanction of new battalions, it should be possible to complete the replacement as and when the additional battalions of the force are available for deployment. It is not possible to indicate the exact time frame for the completion of the process at this stage.

Initiative to solve Ayodhya dispute

†341. **SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to solve the Ayodhya dispute in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to organise around table conference of Hindus, Muslims, State Government, jurists and religious leaders and if so, by when the said conference will be organised; and

(c) whether Government of India are taking any initiative for disposal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[14 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

of all the cases related to the Ayodhya dispute pending before the different courts specially before the Supreme Court of India, for long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Four title suits relating to the Ram Janam Bhoom-Babri Masjid Dispute at Ayodhya are pending before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court. Government of India is not a party to any of these suits. However, Government of India filed an application before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court in March, 2002 for the speedy disposal of these cases. The court accepted the request of the Government of India and as per courts order dated 20.3.2002, day to day hearing in the title suits has started from 1.4.2002.

The Government is of the view that the Ayodhya dispute can be resolved either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned which must in turn receive legal sanction or through a verdict of the judiciary. Government will facilitate all attempts to find an amicable resolution of the dispute.

Border crimes

342. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of incidents termed as border crimes in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the number of casualties in such incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by Central Government to prevent such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Statistics of border crimes has not been segregated and maintained separately at the Central level.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State-subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crimes, including those which have taken place in the border areas, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the administration of the criminal justice system.