

(b) Although no such upper limit has been fixed for the growth of the Force, the present strength of the Force is 94,395 which has more or less remained around this figure during the last five years.

(c) It is not correct to say that the Force is becoming a low caliber security agency. It has a well chalked out plan for modernization of equipment as well as training of its personnel to improve their skills.

(d) There is no unplanned expansion of the Force.

Formulation of Laws for Disaster Management

†1509. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate laws, at the Central and State levels for disaster management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government have recommended to the State Governments to enact a Disaster Management Act. The Act may provide adequate powers to authorities coordinating mitigation, preparedness, response and relief measures during different stages of disaster management.

Declaration of Tamil and Kannada Languages as Classical.

1510. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Tamil, one of the 27 Dravidian Languages, as classical;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Tulu were known as Pancha Dravida languages; and

(c) whether in view of the recorded history of Kannada language dating back to 200BC, Government will take steps to declare Kannada language as classical?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.