

(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?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[18 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) It has been mentioned in the Government's National Common Minimum Programme to declare the Tamil language as a classical language.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of the position stated in reply to part (a) of the question, this issue does not arise today.

#### **Establishment of Disaster Management System**

1511. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are plans of Government in establishing a disaster management system for the country;

(b) whether the inputs from space systems of India are factored into such plans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the projected scheduled for declaring the system operational; and

(e) whether the progress is as per the planned schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Government have taken several measures encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and relief. These measures *inter-alia* include training and capacity building for multi hazard mitigation; drawing up of Disaster Management and Emergency Support Function Plans; setting up of Emergency Operation Centres; setting up of specialist search and rescue teams; establishment of Regional Response Centres where caches of essential search and rescue equipments will be stored; finalizing incident Command System; development of on-line national inventory of disaster response resources; development of a national emergency communication plan for failsafe communication and introduction of disaster management in public education Recommendations/guidelines have been issued by the Ministry to the State Governments from time to time in regard to specific initiatives/ measures to be taken by them in pursuance of this approach.