

April, 2004 under The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 2004, Delhi Police recovered a sum of Rs. 6,00,500/- in cash from the Hotel. The owner, during his interrogation, also disclosed that he had invested part of the ill-gotten money earned by him in property and business.

Re-assessment of norms regarding National calamities

†807. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States, including Uttaranchal have made any demand for reassessment of all the norms regarding national calamities; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Some States including the Uttaranchal had requested for revision of norms and inclusion of certain items in the approved list of items for expenditure from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The scheme of CRF is governed by the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05), which also has a provision for setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Expert Group including the representatives of the State Governments for review of norms and items of assistance from CRF/ NCCF. Accordingly Expert Groups were set up to consider the proposals received from the State Governments and necessary revisions made from time to time, in the norms, keeping in view the scheme of CRF.

Militants team to assassinate political leaders

808. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been able to confirm that militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir have despatched teams to Gujarat and Maharashtra to assassinate political leaders and demolish the Mumbai Stock Exchange building as stated in the media by the Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat Police; and

(b) If so, whether Government are in a position to provide assurances that necessary steps to counter these groups in Maharashtra and Gujarat are being taken?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI S. REGHUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[21 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) These inputs have been shared with the Maharashtra and Gujarat Police and they have been advised to ensure adequate security arrangements.

Amnesty International Remarks on violation of human rights

809. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media report to the effect that Amnesty International had accused India of suppression and attacks on human rights, curtailing human rights under the war on Terror Umbrella, whereby 'hundreds of hundred of people suspected of terrorism were condemned to legal black holes';

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto to remove the misgivings expressed by Amnesty International; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fight out terrorism from across the borders and inside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such accusation are made periodically by Amnesty International, an international nongovernmental Organization based in London covering various aspects of human rights situation in several countries, both developed and developing including India. Similar independent reports are also brought by other international non-governmental organizations on alleged human rights violations. The Government of India does not react or respond to such reports brought out by international non-governmental organizations including Amnesty International. With a thriving democracy, independent judiciary, free and vocal media and commissions at the national and State levels to promote and protect human rights, India has adequate institutional mechanisms to ensure that human rights of its citizens are protected. India's active participation in relevant international inter-governmental fora, such as the Commission on Human Rights and organs of United Nations organization is geared to protection and promotion of human rights.

(c) The Government of India has been consistently pursuing a strategy to counter terrorism, which includes dialogue, democratic process and the rule of law. The measures include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, gearing up of intelligence machinery, improved technology, weaponry and equipments for security forces, action as per