

(c) the reasons for the delay in completing investigations, considering that the SIT has already received three extensions; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the SIT to ensure transparency of its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) SIT has scrutinized records of 293 cases. After scrutiny of the records, a total number of 60 cases were re-opened for further investigation. Out of these 60 cases, charge sheet has been filed in 4 cases, 51 cases have been closed after conducting further investigation and further investigation in 5 cases is under progress. The SIT has examined more than 1000 witnesses in different States of the country.

(c) There is no delay on the part of the SIT in completing the investigation. The records are very old hence, after constant follow up with different agencies, large part of the records could be traced out. As the records are very old, they are also in very bad shape. Several records are in Urdu language, which had to be translated. Several complainants and witnesses who had to be examined could be located with great difficulty as they had shifted their homes, some were migrated to foreign countries.

(d) The SIT has published public notices in 11 leading newspapers at four different occasions in Hindi, English and Punjabi language in Delhi, Chandigarh and Punjab. In these notices, SIT has requested the individuals, group of persons, associations, institutions and organizations acquainted with the facts of the case to give evidence/depose about the same so as to facilitate further investigation. The details of these cases were also uploaded on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs to give wide publicity. The outcome of the investigation has been conveyed to the complainants or their legal heirs by the SIT. The progress of the work of the SIT is being monitored by the MHA on regular basis.

Steps to check spread of ISIS/AL-Qaeda Network

375. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen reports about a turf war between Al-Qaeda and Daesh (ISIS) in India; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken/proposed to be taken to check the spread of ISIS/Al-Qaeda network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) There are no inputs available to suggest a turf war between Al-Qaeda and Daesh (ISIS) in India. However, in order to counter terror activities, there exists a close and effective coordination between intelligence and security agencies at the Centre and the States. The Cyber space is being closely monitored to keep a close watch on the activities of terrorist groups. The Central Intelligence/security agencies are regularly alerting the State Police for taking precautionary/proactive measures to counter any terrorist act.

Lynching of people belonging to certain community

376. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lynching of people belonging to a certain community by a majority mob is unabated in the country;

(b) if so, the number of lynching cases reported in the country in the last three years; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to rein in States to deal with people who are indulging in lynching cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property rest primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data on such attacks.

However, Central Government attaches highest importance in the prevention of crime and necessary advisory for taking action against miscreants, who disturb law and order in the name of protection of cattle has been issued to States/UTs, which is available in the Ministry of Home Affairs website viz www.mha.nic.in.

Discrimination of tribal Khasi woman at Delhi Golf Club

377. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tribal Khasi woman from Shillong has been insulted and discriminated at the Delhi Golf Club recently for wearing her traditional dress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;