

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the panel is likely to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 23.10.2017, in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 855 of 2016 regarding National Anthem, have observed that:—

“ We think it appropriate that the Government should take a call in this regard and, if necessary, as advised, may bring out the requisite notification or circular or rules. When we say ‘take a call’, needless to say, the discretion rests with the Central Government. The discretion has to be exercised without being influenced by our interim order. We may further emphasize that the discretion may be utilized to regulate in an inclusive manner or as the Central Government feels fit.”

In pursuance of the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs with representatives from various Ministries has been constituted *vide* letter No. 14/6/2016-Public dated 05.12.2017 for giving recommendations regarding regulation of playing/singing of National Anthem and to suggest changes in the Prevention to Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 or in the Orders relating to the National Anthem of India. The Committee is asked to give its recommendations regarding playing/singing of National Anthem in six months, from the date of its constitution.

Plan to curb naxal movement in Chhattisgarh

3749. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether naxal activities are under control in the country;
- (b) how many naxals have surrendered in the country last year and till date; and
- (c) whether Government has any foolproof plan to curb naxal movement in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario in the country is well under control. LWE related violent incidents have reflected a declining since last several years. The trend continued in 2017 as well. There has been a 20% reduction in violent incidents and 34% reduction in related deaths in

2017 as compared to 2013. The geographical spread of LWE violence also shrunk from 76 districts in 2013 to 58 districts in 2017.

(b) 685 LWE cadres surrendered in 2017 and 58 have surrendered in 2018 till 28 Feb., 2018.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, the prime responsibility of dealing with LWE lies with the State Governments. The Government of India assists the State Governments in every manner possible. The Government of India has a multi-pronged strategy in place to deal with the LWE menace. The strategy involves security related measures, developmental interventions and ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities etc. Security related measures include assistance to LWE affected States by providing CAPF Bns, helicopters, UAVs, construction of fortified police stations, funds for modernization of State Police forces, arms and equipment, training assistance, sharing of intelligence etc. On development side, apart from flagship schemes of the Central Government in infrastructure, education, skill development etc, several initiatives have been taken specifically for development of LWE affected areas. These include focused schemes for development of roads, installation of mobile towers, skill development, improving network of banks and post offices and education facilities, particularly in the 35 worst affected districts. Recently the Government has approved the Special Central Assistance Scheme which envisages an outlay of ₹ 1000 crore per annum for three years for the 35 worst affected LWE districts to cover gaps in critical infrastructure and services.

Chhattisgarh being the most affected State receives a substantial share of the resources committed by the Centre for LWE. The success of the strategy is evident in reducing security vacuum and increasing reach of governance to interior areas.

Assault on collection representatives of NBFCs by cheated people

†3750. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people cheated by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) throughout the country including Maharashtra have made assault on collection representatives of the said NBFCs after losing their deposits in fund scams committed by those companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to prevent the incidents of attack on the collection representatives of the said NBFCs?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.