Electronic surveillance in major metro cities

2599. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up electronic surveillance towers in major metro cities owing to the increased criminal activities in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated total annual expenditure and technical manpower required for the purpose, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Issues pertaining to solitary confinement

2600. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether solitary confinement (anda cells) will be indefinitely prescribed under Section 73 and 74 of the Indian Penal Code, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) if not, then according to a media report, a prisoner in Nashik Central Jail, had been living in the 'anda cell" for the last nine years, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what is the mechanism available to compensate such person whose rights have been violated by putting them in solitary confinement for such longer periods, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Court may, by its sentence order that the offender shall be kept in solitary confinement for any portion or portions of imprisonment to which he is sentenced, not exceeding three months. Further, such solitary confinement shall, in no case exceed fourteen days at a time. The Government

of Maharashtra has intimated that solitary confinement and anda cell (*i.e.* high security cell) are different. The Government of Maharashtra has also intimated that no prisoner has been kept in solitary confinement for nine years.

(c) Question does not arise.

Establishment of more IRBs in Karnataka

2601. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for the establishment of more India Reserve Battalions (IRBs) due to insufficient strength of Karnataka Special Reserve Police (KSRP) in the State to maintain law and order;

(b) if so, the present number of battalions in the State and the number of new battalions proposed to be established; and

(c) the details thereof and the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) to (c) Two India Reserve Battalions have already been sanctioned to Karnataka. Government of Karnataka has requested for 2 new India Reserve Battalions.

The India Reserve Battalions are sanctioned to the States based on the internal security scenario and threat perception. Government of India is getting an Impact Assessment Study done on the India Reserve Battalions Scheme. Sanction of new India Reserve Battalion is dependent on the outcome of the Study.

A.P. Reorganisation Act

2602. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that former NITI Aayog Deputy Chairman, Panagaria, submitted a Report on implementation of assurances given in the A.P. Reorganisation Act;