

Second capital for the country

1011. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering it necessary to have a second capital for the country in the south India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Immigration policy

1012. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has an immigration policy; and

(b) if so, what are the main components of the immigration policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) and (b) India has put in place robust visa and immigration systems to enable inward and outward movement of all persons including legitimate foreigners like professionals and members of skilled workforce, business persons, students, tourists etc. Entry, stay, movement, transit through and exit of foreign nationals in the country are governed by The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, The Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Immigration (Carrier's Liability) Act, 2000 and rules/orders framed thereunder. 21 main categories and 65 sub-categories of visas are granted by India to foreigners depending on the activities to be performed by them in India. The thrust of India's present visa policy is to encourage foreigners to visit India for tourism, improve people to people contact and business relationships, make India a hub of medical/educational /manufacturing activities and to promote various activities in line with the flagship programmes of the Government.

Entry and exit of foreigners into/from India is regulated through authorized

Immigration Check Posts(ICPs). Presently, there are 107 ICPs in the country comprising of 35 Airports, 27 Seaports, 36 Landports, 5 Railports and 4 Riverports. While 47 ICPs are operated by the Bureau of Immigration, the remaining 60 ICPs are operated by the State Police.

Steps taken to maintain communal harmony in Ayodhya

1013. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to maintain communal harmony in Ayodhya and the rest of the country after the SC verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute;

(b) whether Government has formally or informally reached out to religious leaders for the purpose; and

(c) whether the Army/Paramilitary has been kept on stand by for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (c) Government issued advisory to all State Governments/ UT Administrations to adopt precautionary and preventive measures in order to ensure security, peace and public tranquillity before and after the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid. It was also requested to deploy adequate police forces at the sensitive religious and other sites in the State/UT. Requests of the State/UT concerned for deployment of additional paramilitary forces were duly attended to by Government.

Status of talks with different Kuki groups

1014. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of negotiations with the different Kuki groups in the State of Manipur;

(b) whether Government is looking to complete the negotiations along with the Naga Peace Accord;