

Conflicts in Assam

4874. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the root causes and immediate reasons of present conflict between the Dimasas and Mars of North Cachar Hills district of Assam;
- (b) the number of relief camps and people living their till date; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) According to available reports, the immediate course of the ethnic tension between the Dimasas and Mars in N.C. Hills District and adjoining areas of Cachar was the abduction of 3-DHD cadres by the HPC/D and retaliatory action by DHD on the Hmar villages of the area. Over 6250 people of different communities are staying in 17 relief camps set up by the Government of Assam. The State Government has taken steps to strengthen the security in the area and appealed to both the communities not to resort to violence.

Equipments and weapons to policemen

4875. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the policemen in many States are not fully equipped to take on law breaking ultras and mafia groups;
- (b) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to provide effective equipments and weapons to policemen particularly in vulnerable areas under the scheme for modernisation of State police forces; and
- (c) if so, the details of work done under the scheme during 2002-03 and proposed to be done in 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) In order to modernise the police forces of the States to effectively tackle the challenges posed by ultras and organised mafia, Central Government has increased the Central allocation to Rs. 1000 crore from the year 2000-01. The Scheme includes provision of modern equipment and weapons etc. for policemen.