

[9 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

reported in Delhi during the years 2000 to 2003 (upto 31.3.2003) is given below:

2000	549	410
2001	603	414
2002	639	400
2003(upto31.3.03)	174	71

(c) and (d) The main reasons which drive people towards this extreme step include, *inter-alia*, family disputes; financial crisis; mental depression; failure in examinations; prolonged and chronic illness, etc. Such problems are best tackled at social level.

Spurt in cases under Official Secrets Act

2846. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sudden spurt in the cases registered under the Official Secrets Act in the recent past;

(b) whether several MPs have appealed to the Government for an amendment to the Act to make it more effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) During the year 2002, 35 espionage cases were detected in comparison to 19 cases in 2000 and 17 cases in 2001. In 2003, so far five espionage cases have been detected.

(b) and (c) Some MPs have appealed to the Government for an amendment to the Act. This matter is being looked into and the position in this regard will be laid on the Table of the House.

Urdu knowing persons employed with Delhi police

2847. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the police department of Delhi, a very substantial amount of work till sixties was done in Urdu language;

(b) if so, what is the provision for Urdu knowing people and transla-

tors in the police department and police stations in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) how many Urdu knowing persons are employed with Delhi Police at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) A certain amount of work in the Police Stations in Delhi was earlier transacted in Urdu language. However, it is now mostly transacted in Hindi. There is therefore no felt-need to specifically recruit Urdu knowing personnel in the Police Stations. Nonetheless, the police personnel are detailed to attend the Urdu classes held by Government of "National Capital Territory of Delhi and during the last three years 40 police personnel were deputed to attend these classes.

Rote of National Foundation for Communal Harmony

2848. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the role and activities of National Foundation for Communal Harmony since its inception;

(b) whether there is a proposal to change the profile and role of NFCH; and

(c) whether it is a fact that IB and RAW will be using NFCH for their activities abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was registered on 19th February, 1992 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The main objects of NFCH are as follows:

- (i) To undertake programmes for providing assistance to the children of families affected by communal, caste, ethnic and any other form of violence/clashes which fracture social harmony;
- (ii) To undertake programmes for assisting in the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the children, families or other victims of communal, caste, ethnic and any other form of violence/clashes;
- (iii) To promote activities for the promotion of communal harmony and national integration; and