

Assistance for evacuation of Indians from UAE

2197. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of Indian returning home under the general amnesty declared by the UAE Government;

(b) whether the mass evacuation would create serious socio-economic problems in certain States; and

(c) if so, the Central assistance proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) As per rough estimate, about 30,000 Indians were expected to return from UAE taking advantage of amnesty scheme declared by the Government UAE from 1.1.2002. However, there does not seem to significant response to the scheme amongst the Indians. So far only 44 Emergency Certificates have been issued by Consulate General of India, Dubai and arrival of even these 44 Indian has not been confirmed. All possible assistance will be provided to the Indians returning home under this scheme.

Naxalite Operations

†2198. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Naxalite outfits operating in the country;

(b) the names of the States of their operation;

(c) whether Government are considering any concrete action plan to put a halt to their activities; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far against these naxalites alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) As per available information 12 left wing extremist outfits are mainly operating in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) A Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the naxalite affected States as its members regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the States to check their activities. Besides, financial support to the naxalite affected States is also provided by the Central Government for combating left wing extremism. It also shares intelligence inputs and provides para-military forces on need basis. Two major naxalite outfits, namely CPMLPW and MCC along with their front organisations have been notified as terrorist organisations under POTA, 2002.

Penalty for insult to National Flag

2199. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided to impose severe punishment for insult of National Flag;

(b) if so, what are the main punishment for crimes of serious nature in the new law;

(c) when it is likely to come into force; and

(d) what steps are being taken to educate the public about the honour of the tricolour flag and how insults are to be prevented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Under section 2 of Prevention of Insults of National Honour Act, 1971 an act of insult to Indian National Flag is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. While this punishment is considered adequate, it is proposed to amend the Act so as to provide, *inter-alia*, a minimum imprisonment of one year in the case of second or subsequent offence of insult to the National Flag.

(c) The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 7, 2003. It will come into force after it has been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament and assented to by the President.

(d) The provision of the Flag Code of India, 2002 have been publicised through press, electronic media etc. and circulated among all the State