

be decided only thereafter. Since then, the Central Govt. has not received formal request from the State Govt. of J & K for grant of prosecution sanction.

Public Distribution of Trishul

†3467. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether distribution of Trishul to public is not contempt of pious religious symbol of the God Shiva and the Goddess Shakti;

(b) whether any person or institution which disgraces any religion for its own interest is not guilty; and

(c) whether Government consider those persons as offenders who behave irreligiously in the name of religion; if so, whether Government propose to take action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Religious practices and customs in India vary widely and every person has the right to freedom of religion, which has been enshrined as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution.

(b) and (c) Acts of persons or institutions which hurt the religious sentiments of others are offences under the various provisions of different laws including the Indian Penal Code. Additionally if such acts are likely to apart Public Order or are prejudicial to the security of the country action is taken by the respective State Govt.

Report of International Narcotics Control Board

†3468. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the report released by International Narcotics Control Board, it has been alleged that India prepares heroin and brown sugar illegally; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[23 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) India is a licit producer of opium. Some cases of diversion of opium to the illicit channel presumably for preparation of heroin have come to notice. Eight illicit laboratories in 2001 and seven in 2002 used for conversion of opium into heroin were busted.

Activities of ISI along Indo-Nepal Border

3469. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government discussed the subversive activities of ISI along Indo-Nepal border with the King of Nepal during his recent visit to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the response of Nepalese King in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) During the meeting, various issues relating to Indo-Nepal border were discussed. It was assured by the Nepalese side that their territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India's interests.

Cross-Border Terrorist Activities

3470. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Chief Minister of Assam regarding the transborder terrorist activities being carried out by some militant outfits which are being provided shelter and material and moral support from some of our neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto and action, if any, taken thereon