

officer under certain conditions. But unlike TADA, the confession of an accused shall not be admissible as an evidence against a co-accused. Further such confessions had to be made before a police officer not lower in rank of a SP and had to be further recorded with a Chief Judicial Magistrate within 48 hours.

There is a provision to review the ban and a review committee headed by a sitting or retired judge of a high court will be constituted to hear such applications.

Financing of terrorism, possession of unauthorised arms, explosive substances or other lethal weapons capable of mass destruction and/or use in biological and chemical warfare have also been brought under the purview of this ordinance and the punishment could range from three years imprisonment to life imprisonment or fine or both and also death penalty.

Twenty-three organisations, including Deendar Anjuman, the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and some of the almost defunct outfits in Punjab have been branded as terrorist organisations in the ordinance.

The hurriedly promulgated ordinance lists the Babbar Khalsa International, the Khalistan Commando Force, the Khalistan Zindabad Force and the International Sikh Youth Federation among the list of terrorist outfits.

The ordinance has also branded almost all Kashmiri and North-East militant outfits and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as terrorist organisations.

The outfits operating in Kashmir, which have been listed as terrorist organisations, are the Lashkar-e-Toiba/Pasban-e-Ahle Hadis, the Jaish-e-Mohammed/Tahrik-e-Fuqran, the Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami, the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front.

The North-East outfits which have been branded as terrorist organisations, under Chapter III of the ordinance which deals with the terrorist organisations, are the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), the Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF), the All-Tripura Tiger Force and the National Liberation Front of Tripura. Meanwhile, the government will seek to replace three ordinances, including the controversial POTO in the forthcoming winter session of Parliament beginning on November 19.

The Union Cabinet, at its special meeting here today, decided not only on the dates of Parliament's winter session but also on seeking the passage of the three ordinances.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan said the government was confident of getting the Opposition's support on POTO, despite some of the parties having extreme reservations on it. POTO seeks to fill the void created following the lapsing of TADA.

The minister was of the view that such a law was necessary in the prevailing conditions in the country and would help the government and the police in combating terrorism. He added that the Opposition was equally concerned about terrorism.

The minister said that two other ordinances, seeking to replace the ordinance on passport and the buy-back of shares would also come up for consideration during the

session, which would have a total of 23 sittings.

The Bill seeking to replace the ordinance on passport would give the government, both the Centre and state, powers to suspend the passport or the travel documents of any citizen who it may suspect to be a terrorist. The ordinance signed by President K.R. Narayanan, came into force from October 23. It seeks to make amendments to the Indian Passport Act of 1967.

The ordinance on buy-back of shares was promulgated following a long-pending demand of the industry. It will enable companies to buy-back up to 10 percent of their equity every six months against the prevailing restriction of two years.

REGARDING WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the attached Proclamation of Bill Graves, Governor of the State of Kansas, designating October 21–27 World Population Awareness Week.

Rapid population growth and urbanization have become catalysts for many serious environmental problems, applying substantial pressures to the infrastructure of nations around the world. These pressures caused by population growth and urbanization are manifested especially in pollution, transportation, health, sanitation and public safety. Cities and urban areas today occupy only 2 percent of the earth's land, but contain half of the world's population and consume 75 percent of its resources. World population stands today at more than 6.1 billion and increases by one billion every 13 years.

Therefore, it is important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth and urbanization. Governor Graves has proclaimed the week of October 21–27 of this year as World Population Awareness week in the great state of Kansas, and I would like to support the Governor in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATE OF KANSAS—PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, World population stands today at more than 6.1 billion increases by some one billion every 13 years; and

WHEREAS, The most significant feature of the 20th century phenomena of unprecedented world population growth was rapid urbanization; and

WHEREAS, Cities and urban areas today occupy only 2% of the earth's land, but contain 50% of its population and consume 75% of its resources; and

WHEREAS, The most rapid urban growth over the next two decades is expected in cities with populations ranging from 250,000 to one million; and

WHEREAS, Along with advantages and amenities, the rapid growth of cities leads to substantial pressure on their infrastructure, manifested in sanitary, health and crime problems, as well as deterring the provision of basic social services; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of national and environmental security, nations must redouble voluntary and humanitarian efforts to stabilize their population growth at sustainable levels, while at all times respecting the cultural and religious beliefs and values of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, World Population Awareness Week was proclaimed last year by Governors of 32 states, as well as Mayors of more than 315 United States cities, and co-sponsored by 231 organizations in 63 countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21–27, 2001, as

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

Done at the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 25th day of September, A.D. 2001.

THE CHARITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, H.R. 3192

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3192, the Disaster Relief Charities Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, seven weeks have past since the barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the thwarted hijacking attempt in Pennsylvania, yet victims and their families have not received the funding they desperately need.

Initial reports have indicated that more than \$1.2 billion has been collected by 196 charitable organizations.

While this overwhelming support by Americans has been gratifying, there is a great deal of concern that the funds raised may not be going directly to the intended beneficiaries—the victims and their families—and instead are being diverted or, worse yet, miss their intended goal.

More than 100 families in my congressional district have been affected by the horror of the September 11 attack in New York. Many of these families have been calling my office requesting information and assistance on how and where to go to receive these donated funds.

Accordingly, I am introducing H.R. 3192 to provide a full accounting of: all funds received to date, the amount spent and distributed and for what purpose, the criteria used for disseminating these funds, the percentage of funds donated that will actually go to the victims, and the administrative costs for allocating these funds.

In addition, the Charity Accountability Act will provide both the victims and their families, as well as those wanting to donate, with a clearinghouse of all charitable organizations participating in this important fund-raising initiative.

It is my intention that this legislation will insure that the money raised to assist Americans during any disaster event will go to the intended beneficiary.

Specifically, this legislation will establish a five member board to: (1) Collect and provide