

(c) 277 persons including 14 terrorists were arrested in these cases during the period from 1-1-91 to 30-6-91.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check crime of dacoity, robbery etc. and the activities of the terrorists in the Capital include increased patrolling; posting of pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence; close watch on and frequent raids at the hide-out of criminals increased surveillance; coordination meetings with the officials of the neighbouring states; modernised communication net-work, and formation of an anti-terrorist cell in each police district.

[English]

S.T.D. facility at Contai in West Bengal

*251. **SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to provide S.T.D. facility at Contai in Midnapur district of West Bengal;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing this facility; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) The existing 360 lines Manual exchange will be automatised by electronic exchange. This exchange will be linked to Calcutta by a reliable media to facilitate STD from Contai.

(b) This could not be done earlier due to shortage of equipment.

(c) By 1992-93.

Smuggling on Indo-Burma Border

*262. **DR. A. K. PATEL:**

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Haven of smuggling on Burma border" appearing in the Times of India dated March 3, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of persons arrested for involvement in smuggling and insurgent activities and estimated value of contraband recovered from them; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to check such activities on the Indo-Burma border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):

(a) to (d) The Government have seen the news item. Government have taken following steps to check smuggling in the area:

(1) The Border Security Force have been authorised under the Customs Act to check smuggling.

(2) The Government of Manipur have set up a special Unit under a Superintendent of Police for dealing with smuggling.

(3) Special Courts have been set up by the Government of Manipur to try smuggling cases.

(4) Close coordination is being maintained between various agencies connected with the checking of smuggling.

(5) The Forensic Science Laboratory at Imphal has been supplied with latest equipment for testing samples of seized drugs.

(6) A Regional Office of the Narcotics Control Bureau has been set up at Imphal.

1690 persons have been arrested since 1988 for involvement in smuggling activities. The estimated value of