

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 29, 1991/Bhadra 7,
1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Smuggling on Indo-Pak Border

*610. SHRI DATTATRAYA BAN-
DARU:
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR
KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Govern-
ment has been drawn to the news item
captioned, "Terrorist threat back in focus in
Rajasthan" appearing in the Indian Express
dated July 26, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the smuggling
activities on Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan
during the last four months till date, the
number of terrorists apprehended and the
details of the arms seized; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union
Government to check smuggling of arms
along Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM. M.
JACOB): (a) Yes Sir, Government is aware
of this News Item.

(b) and (c). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Apprehensions of Intruders etc. and seizure of Arms & Ammunition and other Articles by
BSF on Indo-Pak Border in Rajasthan during the last Four Months (Till 31st July, 1991)

i) Apprehensions of intruders etc.	563
ii) Arms seized	Nos.
AK-56 Rifle	58
GPMG	03
Pistol Revolver	26

Guns	02
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Rifle	01
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Total:	90
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iii) Ammunitions	22350 Rds
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iv) Gold	58.566 Kgs
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v) Silver	551.875 Kgs
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vi) Charas	320
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II. Measures taken by the Union Government to check smuggling of Arms along Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.

Border forces have been strengthened both in force, in equipment and weapoery, Vigil has been increased. Border fencing and lighting is being in done specified areas.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the government propose to formulate an action plan to solve the problem of extremism in Rajasthan similar to that of Punjab as also in Kashmir? If so, the time by which that plan will be executed?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Various measures have been taken by the Government, through our forces, to prevent this at the Rajasthan border. One such measure is posting of more BSF. The gap between BOPs have been reduced by deployment of additional BSF battalions under the action plan.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What is meant by BOP?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Border Out-Posts. The number of patrols and vigils have been increased. Observation towers have been erected all along the international border for better observation. Forces deployed on the border, have been issued with night vision

binoculars, search-lights. Mobile patrolling had been introduced by having special border patrols on Jeeps, Motor-Bicycles etc. Border fencing has been erected and flood-lighting has been provided to cover the sensitive structures on our international border alongwith Pakistan in Bikaner sector. The details of the area are a separate issue.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: You have said that work regarding fencing of border has been undertaken on Rajasthan border in Ganganagar, Bikaner, Barmer and Jaisalmer district just like that on the Punjab border. But, how long would it take to complete this job?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, sanction has been given for border fencing upto 202.87 Kms, out of which fencing on 58.80 Kms has been completed. As per the schedule of the C.P.W.D., the remaining of the work will be completed by 30th of September, 1991.

SHRI PAWANKUMAR BANSAL: There is a clear nexus between the terrorists oper-

ating from across the border and the smugglers indulging in smuggling of narcotics etc. We have in the statement that 320 Kgs of Charas was recovered during this period. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to what was the number of people who were apprehended while crossing the border and carrying narcotics?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The total number of people who were found crossing the Rajasthan border during this year 1991 is 185.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many a times a suggestion has been put forward by the Government and people of Rajasthan for the formation of a 5 k.m. wide belt between Rajasthan and Pakistan border where only ex-servicemen should be rehabilitated so that border problem, problem of smuggling and the terrorist problem could be solved once for all. Is the Central Government considering any proposal to create a zone of 5 sq. miles between India and Pakistan border where no civilian should be allowed to live but it would be handed over to army alone, and only exservicemen should be rehabilitated there so that there is permanent security arrangement?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: At present there is no scheme of making a five kilometre belt separately. But at the same time in the five kilometre area, identity cards are being issued in Rajasthan for this purpose.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the length of the Indo-Pakistan border, what are the number of villages existing on the border and whether villagers have been contacted to organise them to resist the smugglers?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: I want a separate notice on the question of the number of villages on the Indo-Pakistan border.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that work relating to border fencing and lighting has been completed in some specified area. The people engaged in smuggling and other undesirable activities find out new places on borders for such activities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking to undertake the work regarding fencing of border and lighting on the entire Western border?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The intention of the Government is to provide as much as possible border fencing and lighting. The question relates to the Rajasthan border and I have got the exact figures for Rajasthan border fencing and lighting.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: It has been noticed all these days that a continuous infiltration is going on on the border of Rajasthan. We also know that terrorists-cum-smugglers are indulging in all these things. But it has never been reduced. In the Press we see regularly all these news items. What is the Government's thinking for curbing this? It is not just flood lighting or catching somebody. Even yesterday THE HINDUSTAN TIMES reported that half-a-dozen Pakistani trained Kashmiris have been killed. To tackle such matters, is the Home Ministry having any master plan on a permanent basis? Will the hon. Minister enlighten us on this?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Intensifying the activities along the border by our forces are the only available means, apart from getting more information through our intelligence sources. Other than that, we don't have any foolproof method by closing the entire border, etc.

[Translation]

SHRI DAUDAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that heroin is smuggled into entire country

through Rajasthan border and due to the threat of being caught, the smugglers leave the consignment of heroin at the border, but the main culprit, the gang leader manages to escape? Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the quantity of unclaimed heroin confiscated and the number of people who crossed over to Pakistan because of the protection provided by Pakistani forces?

[English]

SHRIM.M. JACOB: I have already given the number of people who have been caught this year as 185. I don't know the exact quantity of the heroin seized.

Public Telephone Facility in Post Offices of Uttar Pradesh

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*611. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices/sub post offices in Uttar Pradesh which do not have public telephone facility;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide such facility in all post offices sub postoffied in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) As on 31.7.1991 the number of branch post offices/sub post offices in Uttar Pradesh not having public telephone facilities is 15296.

(b) and (c). There is no Plan to provide telephone facility in all post offices in Uttar Pradesh. The Department of Telecom has, however, planned to provide public telephones in Panchayat villages which can be installed in post offices, Panchayat Head Quarters, Grocer's shop or any other suitable place with public access.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to know the number of post offices and sub post offices to be provided with the Public Telephone facility during the current financial year. Secondly, I would like to know the number of post offices where these facilities have been provided so far. Thirdly, why is the Government not making a scheme for providing Public telephone facility in all the post offices of the State? Fourthly.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this, the question will become very lengthy.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Post Office is simply a part in the scheme of providing Public Telephones. When we provide telephone in villages, we give priority for its installation in a post office if there is any. But the post office does not remain open for 24 hours. The purpose of providing telephone is that if some message is to be conveyed to a Police Station or to a nearby place at 2.00 o'clock in the night, telephone facility should be available to the people. The facility should reach the people. If postman, or the staff of the Post Office or the Extra Departmental employees live in or near the premises of the Post Office, who work for certain fixed hours, the facility of telephone should be provided there, because Extra-Departmental employees are not employed in the Department and they work for certain fixed hours. But provision of a telephone is of no use at a place where the Post Office remains open only for 4 hours. So another place to which the people of the village may agree is chosen, or it is provided at a shop whose owner may be awakened even at late hours in the night. Or it is provided at the residence of Sarpanch or that of a reputed person who might be ready to provide this facility to the people. The scheme has been framed in such a way that the facility could be