

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3882
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
REPLACEMENT OF SECURITY AGENCIES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned `IB may replace cops` appearing in the Tribune, dated 6.4.2000 ;
- (b) if so, the facts reported therein and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to curb cross-border smuggling ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b)&(c): In view of seizures of Fake Indian Currency notes and other contraband from some of the passengers travelling on Samjhauta Express between Lahore and Attari and an appraisal of the security arrangements at the Attari Railway Station, it has been decided to take additional measures to curb smuggling of contraband through this train. These measures include 100% manual checking of baggage, augmenting the security set-up sanitising of platforms and dispensing with the services of coolies, and strengthening of vigilance mechanisms to prevent connivance of the staff deployed at Attari Railway Station. As part of an over-all plan, it is also proposed that Bureau of Immigration will take over the Immigration functions at Attari Railway Station, Wagah Land Checkpost and Raja Sansi Airport at Amritsar. This will help in checking the activities of anti-national elements and smugglers from across the border as the personnel of Bureau of Immigration are better trained and equipped for such functions.