

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3538
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
WRONG DEPICTION OF NATIONAL BOUNDARIES
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wrongful depiction of nations` boundaries falls under the category of cognizable offence;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the number of such cases that have come to the light and the action taken thereon during the recent past;
- (d) whether the WWF International has published distorted map of India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether a citizen of India can move to the court against the institution which have published the maps with distorted boundaries of India; and
- (g) if so the position in this connection?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(c): Sub-section (2) of Section 2 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1961 (incorporated vide the Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Act, 1990), makes wrongful depiction of India`s map an offence punishable with imprisonment which may extend upto 6 months or with fine or with both. In total, 17 cases have come to notice so far.

(d)&(e): The external boundaries of India with Pakistan and China have not been depicted correctly in the maps published by WWF International. Some parts of J&K have been shown as part of Pakistan/China while Arunachal Pradesh has been shown as a disputed territory. The matter was taken up with the authorities of WWF International through the Indian Embassy in Switzerland. The embassy informed that WWF International has apologized for the error and has stopped the distribution of the map. Further, it was intimated that they also took steps to rectify the error.

(f)&(g): As referred to in part (a) above action can be taken under the Law to deal with such situations.