

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:802
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
DEPLOYMENT OF PARA MILITARY FORCES
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `India for paramilitary forces on Nepal border` appearing in `The Hindustan Times` dated February 05, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken by the Government to stops taken by the government to stop ISI activities in the border States of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 802 DUE FOR ANSWER ON FEBRUARY, 2000)

(a) & (b) : The Indo-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a Visa-Free Travel Regime. In view of the recent instances of misuse of this open border for staging terrorist activities directed against India, the concerned agencies of His Majesty Government of Nepal and the Government of India remained in regular touch, both directly and through the bi-lateral institutional Mechanism, such as, the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. The 3rd Meeting of the Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held at Kathmandu from February 1 - 3, 2000. During this meeting the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border point, including the deployment of Central and State Police Forces on our side, was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing misuse of the open India - Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remained available for legitimate users.

(c) : The Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach comprising of deployment of Central Para-Military Forces, setting up of Border Observation Posts, Erection of Fencing/ Flood Lighting, in vulnerable areas along Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh border and provision of specialised equipment like Night Vision Devices to the Forces for greater vigilance along the International Borders of the country to check subversive activities. As regards Indo-Nepal border, an Action Plan in consultation with the concerned States has been prepared for strengthening policies and intelligence collection along the border including deployment of a Central Police Organisation in vulnerable stretches of the border.