

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005

TERRORIST CAMPS IN MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Shukla Smt. Karuna;Singh Shri Rakesh;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the presence of terrorist training camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the total number of camps existing as on date;
- (c) whether the Union Government has requested the neighbouring Governments to destroy these camps;
- (d) if so, the reaction of these Governments thereto; and
- (e) the steps takenJ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e) Myanmar: Some Indian insurgent groups reportedly use Myanmar territory for shelter and other activities. This matter has regularly been taken up with the Government of Myanmar including during the State visit of the Head of State of Myanmar to India in October 2004, during which a categorical assurance was given that the Myanmar Government would not permit its territory to be used for insurgent activities against India. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed between the two countries on 25th October 2004, both sides have agreed to cooperate to prevent cross-border crimes including terrorism. The first meeting of the Consultative Group set up to monitor progress on the implementation of the MoU was held in February 2005. Both Governments are taking further steps for enhancing cooperation in this field.

Bangladesh: There are frequent reports that Indian insurgent groups (IGs) are using Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, training camps, transportation of arms, transit, etc. IG camps are reported to be located along the border areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet Division and Chittagong. Information on such camps is regularly shared with Bangladesh authorities for action. The matter has been repeatedly raised at the highest level including with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in July 2004, who assured that Bangladesh does not want anyone to use their territory for terrorism. At the same time, the Bangladesh authorities have also been denying the existence of such camps. The matter remains an important issue in our bilateral discussions with Bangladesh.