

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4096
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
SMUGGLING OF ARMS
Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the large scale smuggling of arms in North-Eastern region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to tackle this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)&(b): There are reports that insurgent outfits operating in the North-Eastern States of India have been procuring arms through arms smugglers based in Yunnan Province of China, Myanmar and South East Asian countries. The weapons in small consignments are transported either via Myanmar or Bangladesh to India.

(c) Government of India has raised these concerns with China, Myanmar and Bangladesh from time to time through diplomatic channels. In order to prevent smuggling across the Indo-Myanmar border, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and Myanmar in January, 1994, for maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas. Government has stepped up vigilance and surveillance along the border. The Security Forces along the border have been suitably sensitized regarding arms smuggling by insurgents and regular patrolling along the border areas is being carried out.