

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2169

ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012

CROSS BORDER SMUGGLING

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are instances of smuggling of various items including drugs/ narcotics, foodgrains and fertilisers etc. across the international borders of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported alongwith the items seized thereon and the number of persons including foreigners apprehended during each of the last three years and the current year, border-wise;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of security forces at the porous international borders like Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to deploy sufficient number of security forces and also to check cases of smuggling across the borders of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Statements are enclosed at Annexure 'A' and 'B'.

(c) to (e): Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is the Border Guarding Force on the Indo-Nepal Border. SSB has so far established 450 Border Out Posts (BOPs) on the Indo-Nepal Border. Each BOP has a sanctioned strength of one platoon. 32 additional battalions have been sanctioned to SSB in June, 2010, to be raised during 2010-11 to 2015-16.

Border Security Force (BSF) is the Border Guarding Force on the Indo- Bangladesh Border with 1185 sanctioned Border Out Posts along this Border. Besides, 3 Nos. of floating Border Out Posts (BOPs) are also deployed to dominate riverine stretches of this border. Government has also approved 29 additional battalions for effective domination on Indo-Bangladesh border. These battalions are to be raised in a phased manner in five years perspective plan from 2009-10 to 2013-14.

The Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration which, inter-alia, includes round the clock surveillance & patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts; construction of border fencing and flood lighting; introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipment; upgradation of intelligence set up and coordination with the State Governments and concerned intelligence agencies.