

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6321
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY POLICE
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of cases of police excesses and brutality meted out towards unarmed protesters;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to revise the existing rules and mechanisms for the police to deal with protests and dharnas;
- (c) if so, the details of instructions and guidelines issued by the Government to the police forces in this regard including the use of firearms;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to deal with cases of police brutality in a swift and firm manner; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) : As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to maintain the law and order in the States, ensure safety and security of their people and take action against the erring policemen in such cases. Therefore, the details of the cases of police excesses and brutality meted out towards un-armed protestors are not being centrally compiled and maintained.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary with representatives of Intelligence Bureau, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Bureau of Police Research & Development, Defence Research Development Organization and the State Governments of Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Chhattisgarh to recommend Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to deal with public agitation with non-lethal measures vide order dated 22nd September, 2010. The Task Force has finalized the SOP and the same has been circulated to all the States / UTs / Central Police Organizations. The objective of the SOP is to provide guidelines for dispersal of an unlawful assembly with minimum necessary force and with minimum possible collateral damage.

(d) to (e) : Police, being a State subject, reforms in police functioning is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, efforts of the States are supplemented by the Central Government through training of their police officers in the country and abroad. Sufficient inputs on professionalism, community policing and protection of human rights have been included in the syllabi of the induction courses. State Police Forces are also organizing special courses on "use of scientific techniques in investigation", "protection of human rights", etc. Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPRD) has also been organizing courses on scientific investigation, image building, good governance, ethical issues, use of technology in crime prevention, etc to sensitize the State Police officials on such issues.