

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
CONFERRING SPECIAL POWERS TO SSB
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has requested the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to confer certain special powers under the Customs Act and Passport Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of CBEC thereon;
- (c) whether conferring the said powers is likely to put a check on the illegal activities at those international borders which are guarded by SSB; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIR. P. N. SINGH)

(a) & (b): Powers under the Passport Act-1967 have been delegated to SSB officers not below the rank of Sub-Inspectors by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) vide their Gazette Notification No. S.O. 1319(E) dated 11.06.2012.

The proposal relating to delegation of powers to SSB under Sections 100 to 110 of the Customs Act is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (d): SSB is deployed on Indo-Nepal and Indo Bhutan borders which are open and porous. The Custom offices are also functional on these borders. However, the average gap between two Land Custom Stations is higher than the gap between the two BOPs of SSB on both these borders. Therefore, given the substantial presence of SSB on these borders and the fact that the smugglers sometimes use the dense forest and unauthorized routes for smuggling, delegation of powers under Customs Act and Passport Act will help SSB to check the illegal activities including smuggling on these international borders.