

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:305
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
SMUGGLING AT BORDER
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Border Security Force is considering to use non-lethal weapons to tackle infiltrators and criminals involved in smuggling of contraband etc. along the Indo- Bangladesh border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such crimes along the Indo-Bangladesh border is on the rise during the last several months;
- (d) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last year and the current year along with the number of persons apprehended and contraband seized therein; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to check such activities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Border Security Force (BSF) has introduced Non-Lethal weapons and ammunicions i.e. Pump Action Guns, Stun Grenades/Dye Marker Grenades. 800 Nos. of Pump Action Guns have been deployed at vulnerable BOPs on Indo-Bangladesh border.

(c) & (d): Month-wise details of seizure of contraband goods including cattle indicate that there is no set pattern of increase or decrease in the crime after introduction of pump action guns and other non-lethal ammunicions :-

Month Seizure of Contraband Goods (Value in Lacs.)

January 2012 612.419

February 2012 1259.258

Marc 2012 555.785

April 2012 683.304

May 2012 732.292

June 2012 766.366

July 2012 919.844

August 2012 964.477

September 2012 823.399

October 2012 833.893

November 2012 1515.937

December 2012 662.478

January 2013 778.001

During 2012, 3549 criminals were apprehended. In 2013, upto January, 2013, 417 offenders have been apprehended.

(e) : The following effective measures have been taken by BSF to check infiltration and smuggling from across the Indo-Bangladesh border:-

(i) Meetings at various levels are held with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) for better border management as per the issues specified in Co-ordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP).

(ii) Effective domination of the border by carrying out round-the-clock surveillance of the border by patrolling, laying nakas (border ambushes) and by deploying observation posts all along the IB. Riverine segments of IB are patrolled and dominated with the help of water crafts/speed boats of BSF Water Wing.

(iii) Introduction of Force multipliers and Hi-Tech Surveillance equipments such as Hand Held Thermal Imager (HHTI), Night Vision Device/Goggles (NVDs/NVGs) etc. Constant efforts are made to procure the latest surveillance equipments for further enhancing the border domination.

(iv) Up-gradation of intelligence network and co-ordination with sister agencies.

(v) Conduct of special operations along the borders.

(vi) Frequent visits to border by Unit Commandant and other senior officers to supervise effective domination of the border.