GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
MANUFACTURING OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the security forces had unearthed a gun manufacturing unit deep in the forests of Jharkhand which is run by the Maoists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof mentioning the items found therein and arrests made thereof;
- (c) whether the security forces had unearthed other such units in the country during each of the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) to (b) The security forces unearthed a gun manufacturing unit of the Maoists from the Charara Dera forest area under PS Jaraikela, district West Singhbhum, Jharkhand on 24.01.2014. The security forces recovered a number of items including liquid explosives, ammunition, explosive manufacturing material and electronic equipments. In this connection, no one has been arrested so far.
- (c) to (d) This data is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs, but by the States concerned. However, it is a fact that such units are regularly unearthed during anti- naxal operations in Left Wing Extremism affected States. In this regard, it also informed that the banned CPI(Maoist) party has its own weapons manufacturing unit called the Technical Research and Arms Manufacturing (TRAM) unit. The TRAM caters to the weapons/ammunition requirement of the CPI(Maoist). They set up their workshops etc. in remote and inaccessible areas in the LWE affected states. However, the raw material is sourced from towns and cities. In a major setback to the CPI(Maoist) party, Sadanala Ramakrishna, Chief of Technical Research and Arms Manufacturing Unit along with four of his associates was arrested in Kolkata on 29.02.2012. In addition, four more senior activists of TRAM including Asim Kumar Bhattacharya, In-charge of Mumbai unit of TRAM were arrested in Mumbai on 01.03.2012. The police also recovered large number of components meant for manufacture of Rocket Launchers, Rocket Propelled Grenades etc. from them. This action has significantly dented the weapons making ability of the Maoists.
- (e) The measures taken to bust these arms manufacturing units include deployment of forces at strategic locations, firm police action against such unlawful activities and intensified intelligence based anti-naxal operations. The Central Government closely monitors the situation and issues intelligence alerts/advisories to the LWE affected State Governments on a regular basis in this regard.