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Title : Regarding Central Government's approval to 'The Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003'.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Home Minister towards one very serious matter, that is, regarding the widespread terrorist activities in our country. The terrorist activities, as we all know, are increasing day by day, and the height of these terrorist activities in the last Mumbai bomb blasts. For controlling these terrorist activities, our Gujarat Government passed one Bill known as Gujarat (Control of Organised Crime) Bill, 2003 on the suggestion of the Central Government. The same was sent to the Government of India for the assent of His Excellency the President of India on the 1st of April, 2003[R57].

The Ministry of Home Affairs, vide their letter dated 24th December, 2003, had recommended deletion of Clauses 14 and 16. Thereafter also the amended Bill was passed by the State Legislative Assembly on 2nd June, 2004 and the amended Bill was again sent to Government of India in June, 2004 for the Assent of His Excellency the President. The State Government is awaiting the Assent of His Excellency the President of India for the last more than two years.

The Bill is based on a similar Act passed by the State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. When the police in the neighbouring State of Maharashtra was about to take action against some of the organised groups of criminals, some of them have shifted to Gujarat. So, unless and until Gujarat Government gets the statutory authority to deal with such criminals in the same manner as the Government of Maharashtra, the security situation in the State would remain under constant threat. Gujarat being a border State has all the more reason to worry about the organised crime. The amended Bill is in accordance with the principles laid down by the hon. High Court of Mumbai.

I, therefore, urge upon Government of India to kindly convey the Assent of His Excellency the President of India to the Bill as immediately as possible.