

[24 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Strength of Assam Rifles

801. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present strength of Assam Rifles in Battalion;
- (b) the States where they are posted permanently or temporarily; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to increase the strength of Assam Rifles to meet its requirement in the North-Eastern Region and other hilly region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Sir, the present strength of Assam Rifles Bn. is 1250.

(b) and (c) It will not be in public interest to give details of deployment of the force and its augmentation plan.

Shivani Bhatnagar assassination case

†802. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the years passed since the assassination of the journalist, Shivani Bhatnagar and number of persons interrogated in this case;
- (b) whether Police came to any conclusion from the interrogation; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Police had any suspicion on any particular officer in respect of said assassination and the permission was not granted to the Police interrogate that officer, and if so, the department of the said officer; and
- (d) whether Government propose to get the case investigated by C.B.I.; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Shivani Bhatnagar was murdered on 23rd June, 1993. More than 200 persons have so far been interrogated in connection with this case.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.