

[26 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The overall internal security situation in the country largely remained under control. However, the militant and secessionist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, the militancy in some North-Eastern States, Left extremist violence in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa continue to remain areas of concern. Government in consultation with all concerned has been evolving appropriate strategies to handle sensitive issues pertaining to internal security in a multi-dimensional manner, which include strengthening of the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, greater functional integration of anti-militancy efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democratic process etc. The Central Government has also been regularly sensitising all State Governments and concerned agencies regarding the activities of extremists. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for modernisation of State Police Forces and deployment of Central Para Military Forces. There is constant interaction between the Centre and concerned State Governments where the internal security situation is reviewed and various aspects of assistance from the Central Government are discussed. Special Schemes for reimbursement/ grant of the security related expenditure incurred by the extremist affected States is also being implemented by the Central Government.

Cancellation of train/bus services to Pak

3439. SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 6th March, 2000, captioned "cancel train/bus service with Pak";

(b) whether a political party has demanded immediate cancellation of bus and train services between India and Pakistan; if so, its name;

(c) whether Government have any information that they were being used by ISI to push terrorist, fake currency and arms and ammunition into the country; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Akhil Bhartiya Shiv Sena Rashtravadi. Punjab had demanded the cancellation of bus and train services between India and Pakistan.

(c) Instances of misuse of Samjhauta Express by smugglers and other anti-national elements for clandestine induction of contraband, fake Indian currency notes, drugs, weapons etc. into India have come to notice.

(d) It has been decided by the Government to take additional measures to curb smuggling of contrabands through this train. These measures include 100% manual checking of baggage, enforcing baggage restriction, augmenting the security set-up, sanitising of platforms and dispensing with the services of coolies and strengthening of vigilance mechanisms to prevent corruption amongst the staff deployed at Attari Railway Station. As part of an over-all plan, it is also proposed that Bureau of Immigration will take over the Immigration and Registration functions at Attari Railway Station. This will help in checking the activities of anti-national elements from across the border as the personnel of Bureau of Immigration are better trained and equipped for such function.

Influx of Chinese weapons

3440. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the influx of Chinese weapons into the country;

(b) if so, whether the smuggling of Chinese weapons in the country particularly in the border States has created tension in the region;

(c) whether the Central Government in consultation with the State Government propose to chalk out plans to check such illegal influx of weapons in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir. No such influx has come to Government's notice.