

Role of ISI in N.E. Region

3092. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that ISI is active in the North-Eastern Region of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to curb the activities of ISI in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Reports indicate that Pak ISI has made concerted efforts to provide assistance to Indian insurgent groups operating in the North Eastern region from some of the neighbouring countries.

(c) Institutional arrangements have been put in place with the Government of Bangladesh and Nepal for dialogue and cooperation have been sensitised about the activities of Pak-ISI to take precautionary measures.

Smuggling of Arms

3093. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of the prevalent arms smuggling on the Gujarat and Konkan coasts and the Rajasthan border; and
- (b) what steps Government have taken since April, 1998 to prevent these arms smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):
(a) *Gujarat Coast*: A few cases of seizure of arms have come to notice on the Gujarat Coast, which have been smuggled into the State.

The details of seizures for the years 1997 and 1998 are as under:

| Year | Revolver | Pistol | Rifles | Gun |
|------|----------|--------|--------|-----|
| 1997 | 13 | 20 | 11 | 1 |
| | (AK-6) | | | |
| 1998 | 11 | 9 | 2 | — |

(As on (AK-6)
30.6.98)

Maharashtra, Goa & Karnataka:

No instances of arms smuggling came to notice from the coastal areas in the States of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka during the period 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Rajasthan Border:

After the fencing of the major portion of the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan, the smuggling of arms/ammunition has been reduced to a great extent. Occasional attempts made to smuggle weapons from across the border are foiled by security forces.

(b) Steps taken by the government to prevent such smuggling activities include:

a) strengthening of BSF, BOPs and Intelligence network;

(b) Western portion of National High Way No. 15 has since been declared as restricted area for the foreigners;

(c) Night curfew imposed within one Km. from the international border in districts of Ganganagar, Bikaner and Barmar and Within 5 Kms in district Jaisalmer;

d) Close cooperation and coordination is being maintained between the different agencies deployed at the border to exchange information;

(e) Joint interrogation centres exist at Jodhpur, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer and Barmar for questioning suspicious persons.

(f) Collective patrolling and 'nakabandi' as well as raids are carried out by different agencies deployed at the border.