

[25 July, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Work of construction of fencing on the remaining portion of the Gujarat and Jammu sectors of the Indo-Pak border is in progress.

Apex body to monitor intelligence agencies

359. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry to set up an apex body to monitor IB, RAW and other agencies; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons for setting up of such body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers set up in April, 2000 to review the national security system in its entirety, has recommended, *inter-alia*, the establishment of an Intelligence Coordination Group to provide for systematic Intelligence oversight at the Apex level. The recommendations of the Group of Ministers have been accepted.

Request of West Bengal for additional battalions of BSF

360. SHRI JIBON ROY:

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal, in recent meeting with him has asked for twelve additional battalions of Border Security Force to launch joint operation with Central agencies to combat growing ISI activities in the State and to step up vigil along the Indo-Bangla Border;

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction; and

(c) how many additional battalions have since been dispatched to the State in order to ease their difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of West Bengal had, *inter-alia*, mentioned