

(a) whether 11 FIRs were registered by J and K Police and two Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into the incidents of sale of ration meant for soldiers posted in Siachen in open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the final outcome;

(c) whether such incidents of unauthorised sale/diversion of other ration items had been noticed earlier too, in various units, during the last decade;

(d) if so, the details and action taken; and

(e) whether such misconducts tarnish the fair name of Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) First Information Reports have been lodged by Jammu and Kashmir Police in various Police Stations relating to the incidents involving sale of rations. These FIRs are vague and do not contain specific particulars of any Army personnel except one, which contains the name of an Army Unit. Two Courts of Inquiry were ordered by Army authorities during July, 2007 to investigate the matter. On the basis of the findings of the Courts of Inquiry, action has been initiated against 15 Army personnel. No such incident has come to notice earlier. However, adequate preventive measures have been initiated to keep a check on such cases in future. These incidents are only aberrations and the fair name of Army is built upon its many positive contributions and service to the nation.

Upgradation of IMD stations for accurate weather forecasting

287. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of upgrading infrastructure of India Meteorological Department (IMD) stations in the National Capital to make weather forecasting as much as 95 per cent accurate and faster;

(b) if so, what are all the total financial allocation made by Government for this purpose;

(c) whether Government also propose to upgrade other IMD stations in other metros and coastal areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Government has taken up a project, Metropolitan Weather Information and Forecast System for National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, to provide location/event specific real time weather information and to provide location/event specific weather forecasts in short (48 hrs. in advance) and now cast range (3-6 hrs. in advance). Establishment of dense observation network for the NCR region of Delhi, ingestion of data into a high resolution meson-scale model and auto-now cast system is expected to greatly enhance the quality of weather monitoring and forewarning over the NCR region.

The Ministry has provided for an allocation of Rs. 49.34 crores for the implementation of this project during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Crackdown on smuggler's cartels along Indo-Bangladesh border

288. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to act in concert with the West Bengal Government and the BSF to initiate steps to crackdown on smuggler's cartels operating along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether there has been an alarming rise in smuggling activities on Indo-Bangla borders;

(c) if so, whether Government is in process of drawing up a blueprint to implement plans for the crackdown on smugglers operating on Indian soil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government has taken up many steps to check smuggling along Indo-Bangladesh Border including round the clock surveillance of borders by Border Security Force (BSF) which patrol both land and riverine stretches. BSF is working in close coordination with the Customs Departments, State Police and other Intelligence Agencies to crackdown on smuggler's cartels operation along the Indo-Bangladesh Border. As per the available information, there is no alarming rise in smuggling activities along Indo-Bangladesh Border.

(c) and (d) The Government of India already has an operational strategy and has, information thereof, has taken the following steps to check the activities of smugglers operating on Indian soil:-

- (i) Introduction of modern surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc.
- (ii) Upgradation of intelligence machinery;
- (iii) Setting up of 1185 Border Out Posts along Indo-Bangladesh border of which 802 outposts have already been established; and the remaining approved; and
- (iv) Construction of border fencing, roads and flood lighting.

Bomb blast in Guwahati

289. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether serial bomb blasts killed and injured many people in Guwahati in Assam on 1st January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the people killed and injured, separately; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon to prevent terror and the compensation paid to the kins of killed and injured people?