

Sanctioned and actual strength of BSF

306. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned and actual strength of Border Security Force in the country as on 1st January, 2009;

(b) the reasons where the shortfall exceeds 5 per cent of the sanctioned strength; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that the Force does not suffer from shortage of manpower and equipment for the performance of its onerous duties on the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of Border Security Force as on 01st January, 2009 was 2,10,301 and the actual strength on that date was 2,04,845. The shortfall is 2.59 per cent only.

(c) The vacancies caused by retirement, promotion, resignation, etc. are anticipated well in advance and are systematically filled up by recruitment, promotion, deputation, etc. as provided in the relevant Recruitment Rules. Equipments are being regularly supplied to field units as per authorization.

Revamping Civil Defence in States

307. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the scheme for revamping Civil Defence in the States in view of the looming danger of threats to security; and

(b) the break-up of funds disbursed to States for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise and the projects completed by each State during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The project for Revamping of Civil Defence in the Country is proposed to be implemented in Eleventh Plan period with an allocation of Rs. 100 crore, recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee. As the final approval is yet to be given, no funds have been released to the States so far.

Sikh militants in jails under TADA Act

308. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Sikh militants are in different jails in India either convicted or being tried under TADA Act;

(b) the figure of each State; and

(c) whether there are any such prisoners who have not been released from jails in spite of their completion of the sentence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) to (c) The information regarding TADA cases pertaining to State Government is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In this connection, it may be stated that State Governments have been asked to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court dated 27.2.1996 in respect of categorization of TADA under trials for the purpose of grant of bail.

Prior information about July, 2008, bomb blasts

†309. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Intelligence agencies had prior information of the bomb blasts that took place in July, 2008;

(b) if not, whether due to failure of Government intelligence agencies, such large act of terrorism could be carried out;

(c) if so, whether Government failed to check these blasts even after the warnings given by Indian Intelligence agencies; and

(d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to strengthen the intelligence system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There was no prior information regarding bomb blasts that took place in Bangalore on 25.07.2008, Ahmedabad on 26.07.2008.

(b) and (c) The Central and State Intelligence agencies are working in close coordination by way of regular sharing and exchange of information, and operational coordination with reference to specific cases that may occur. Focused efforts are also being made to ensure close coordination between the intelligence and counter terrorism agencies of different States. As a result of these efforts, a large number of terrorist modules have been busted and possible terrorist incidents averted.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to strengthen and upgrade the capabilities of intelligence agencies both at the Central level and the State level, as well as to enhance information sharing and operational coordination between the Central agencies and the State governments. Towards this end several measures have been taken to augment the strength of the Intelligence Bureau, with the aim of strengthening its field level presence and the mechanisms for sharing of intelligence with the States and other user agencies, training facilities, etc.

Further, an executive order has been issued on 31.12.2008 under which Multi-Agency Centre (MAC), under the Intelligence Bureau (IB), has been obliged to share intelligence with all other agencies, including agencies of the State Governments, Union Territories. Likewise, all other agencies have been obliged to share intelligence with MAC. MAC has also been made operational on a 24 X 7 basis. Besides, work has been taken up to create a dedicated national

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.