

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has represented that there should be a ban on online lottery. They have also represented that a law should be made for online lottery with freedom to State Government to ban it, if Government of India does not desire to ban it nationally.

(c) The Government of India had on 23.12.1999 introduced Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 in Rajya Sabha, which seeks to prohibit the organization, conduct and promotion of lotteries falling under Entry 40 of List-I – Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs for examination and report. The Committee in its report suggested that the Government may take up the issue of banning the lotteries at the political level and explore possibilities of evolving a larger consensus in the matter.

In a bid to evolve political consensus on the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999, various efforts were made by the Ministry and finally the overwhelming view which emerged was that “the lotteries should not be prohibited, but there should be stronger and more effective regulation of lotteries”.

Consequently, the Central Government decided to withdraw the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999. The matter for withdrawal of the Bill was discussed in the Rajya Sabha on 24.11.2009, but the Motion to withdraw the Bill was deferred.

Illegal use of NHs by militants in North-Eastern States

*399 SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that militants in North-Eastern States have used the 225 km. long National Highway 39 from Dimapur in Nagaland to Moreh, the border town in Manipur to go to their camps located in no man’s land along the international border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether militants’ camps in the border States are actively running and NHs are used to carry illegal weapons etc.; and

(d) if so, the strategies being adopted by Government to check such illegal use of NHs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) While there are no active militant camps in Manipur, Government is aware that militants are, sometimes, able to use National Highway 39 to go to their camps/hideouts across the border. Some arms and ammunition have been seized along the National Highway 39 from Dimapur in Nagaland to Moreh in Manipur.

Concerted efforts are being made by the State Government in the region to counter the activities of the groups and misguided elements, who have been indulging in violence and extortion, etc., and to create an atmosphere of peace and normalcy. The Central Government is supplementing their efforts through various measures such as deployment of additional Central Security Forces for carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable installations and projects, based on threat assessments; sharing of intelligence; financial assistance for strengthening of the local Police Forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization Scheme; assistance for strengthening various aspects of security apparatus and other aspects of anti-militancy operations by way of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure; raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc.

Government has also advised the State Governments concerned to enhance vigil along the National Highway. Some specific steps taken in this regard include regular checking at check posts; establishing mobile vehicle check-post at random timings and locations to check the vehicles plying on the NH 39; and undertaking special intelligence based operations.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh for coastal security

*400. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is upgrading the coastal security scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated so far and spent in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the demands of each State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has consistently accorded highest priority to coastal security and an integrated Coastal Security Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 400 crore for non-recurring expenses and Rs. 151 crore for recurring expenses is presently under implementation. Under this Scheme, assistance is being provided to nine coastal States *viz.* Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and four coastal Union Territories, *viz.* Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to set up 73 coastal police stations, 97 check posts, 58 outposts and 30 operational barracks as also for 204 patrol boats, 153 jeeps and 312 motorcycles for patrolling along and off the coastal belt. In addition, and in the context of 26/11, the Government is taking steps to further strengthen coastal security and, to this end, coastal State and Union Territories have carried out vulnerability/gap analysis jointly with Coast Guard to firm up their additional requirements. Action is underway to finalise the components of Phase-II of the