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27.	Uttarakhand	–
28.	West Bengal	22,495
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03
30.	Chandigarh	91
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	83
32.	Daman and Diu	33
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	2,046
35.	Pondicherry	317
	Indian National Army (INA)	22,468
TOTAL :		1,70,989

Crackdown on extortionist groups in NE States

1103. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the North-Eastern States of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland to crack down on all extortionist groups, irrespective of their affiliations;

(b) if so, whether the National Highway 39 between Nagaland and Manipur is being used as a major extortion route for gangs; and

(c) if so, the details of steps the NE States have taken to curb the activities of these groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Central Government has been requesting the Concerned State Governments to check the extortion activities of militant outfits. National Highway 39, linking Dimapur (Nagaland) to Moreh (Manipur) passes through the areas dominated by Naga, Meitei and Kuki

insurgent outfits. There are reports indicating incidents of extortion by insurgent groups along this highway. State Governments have been advised to take appropriate action and enhance vigil along the National Highway.

Concerted efforts are being made by the State Governments in the region to counter such activities of the groups. 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. The Central Government is maintaining close and continuous coordination with the State Governments in the region.

Misuse of firearms licences

1104. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of ever increasing number of firearms licences going to unscrupulous elements and the danger it poses to peace, the Union Government has asked police to verify requests for gun licences within 60 days;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to amend the Arms Act to check misuse of firearms licences; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Section 13(2) of the Arms Act, 1959, stipulates that on receipt of an application for grant of an arms licence, the licensing authority shall call for the report of the officer in charge of the nearest police station on that application, and such officer shall send his report within the prescribed time, which the licensing authority shall consider before grant or refusal of licence. However, the proviso to Section 13(2A) of the said Act, empowers the licensing authority to grant