

At present, convoys of trucks and tankers are being escorted so as to maintain supplies of essential commodities in the State.

**Easy availability of arms *vis-a-vis* rising crimes**

3086. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment/conducted any study regarding the linkages between easy availability of legal/illegal weapons and rise in crimes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the relevant provisions of the Arms Act, 1959 governing verification before arms licences are issued; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 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 send his report within the prescribed time, which the licensing authority shall consider before grant of refusal of licence. However, the proviso to Section 13(2A) of the said Act, empowers the licensing authority to grant arms licence without waiting for the police report, if the same is not received within the prescribed time. With a view to ensure that an arms licence is granted after police verification in each and every case, it is proposed to (i) specify a period of 60 days for the purpose of police report required under Section 13(2) and (ii) to delete the proviso to Section 13 (2A), so that the licensing authority is obliged to take into account the report of the police authorities before is obliged to take into account the report of the police authorities before grant of an arms licence, for which a Bill has been proposed to be introduced in Parliament shortly.

**Anti-begging and anti-hawkers drive in Delhi**

3087. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with less than two months to go for the Commonwealth Games, the Delhi Police is yet to act on the issue of presence of large scale beggars and hawkers at various road intersections in South Delhi, especially near Siri Fort Sports Complex and Panchsheel intersection;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any steps by Delhi Police;

(c) whether Government will set up anti-begging and anti-hawkers drive in these important junctions before the Commonwealth Games; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Sir, there is no such proposal with the Delhi Police. Local Police maintains a sharp vigil at road crossings/intersections to keep the area beggar/hawker free.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for any special drive before the Commonwealth Games. Beggars are being apprehended regularly under the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 and the unauthorized hawkers are removed from non-hawking areas by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

**Special relief package to Karnataka for restoration of damaged infrastructure**

3088. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested a special package for restoration of damaged infrastructure caused by heavy rains and flood havoc in Karnataka State amounting to Rs. 3680.61 crores over three years; and

(b) what is the status of the proposed relief package given that the lifeline for the poor and needy are dependent on such relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per information received from Planning Commission, Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal to Planning Commission *vide* letter dated 28.6.2010 requesting for a special Package for restoration of damaged infrastructure caused by heavy rains and flood havoc in Karnataka State amounting to Rs. 3680.61 crore over three years.

(b) The matter was examined in Planning Commission and the State Government was suggested to prepare a proposal for multilateral assistance for the restoration and rehabilitation of areas damaged by floods and submit it to Department of Economic Affairs for funding as Externally Aided Project (EAP).

**Rescue and rehabilitation work for flood and cyclone hit areas**

3089. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount given to Orissa and Bihar for the rescue, restoration and rehabilitation work for the flood of 2009 and whether all amount released from Government of India has already been utilized;