

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;