

(a) whether some States are awaiting clarification from the Ministry on the proposals for widening the national highways passing through the States especially Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years where the cases are pending with the Ministry, State-wise;

(c) by when the clearances will be given to each proposal; and

(d) the reasons for keeping the proposals pending?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Naxalites extending their activities to Punjab

*53. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the press reports about the naxalites extending their activities to Punjab are correct;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to tackle the situation;

(c) whether State Government has asked for special Central assistance in this connection; and

(d) whether the naxalites have developed any links with some terrorist groups in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) While different naxalite outfits continue to have marginal presence in Punjab, no armed activity or violence has been reported from the State in recent times.

Significantly, as part of its design of building a broad united platform, the CPI (Maoist)'s front organizations have been noticed joining hands with other groups in taking up various agrarian-related issues as well as those related to privatization of the PSEB. However, there are no inputs to indicate that Left Wing Extremists have developed links with some terrorist groups in the State.

Central Government provides funds to the State of Punjab under the Modernization of State Police Forces Scheme.

Gender bias in army

*54. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the fact that even after Delhi High Court order, gender bias still continues in the army; and

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken to implement the Delhi High Court order?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, in their order dated 12.3.2010, have passed certain directions relating to grant of Permanent Commission to Short Service Commission (Women) Officers in Air Force and Army. It has been decided to implement the order in respect of Indian Air Force. In case of Army, the matter is *sub-judice*.

Women are inducted in the Army as officers. They are entitled to all the powers, privileges and facilities available to an officer without any gender bias.

Killing of CRPF personnel due to ignorance of intelligence reports

†*55. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that had Chhattisgarh Government not ignored the intelligence reports, the naxalites would not have killed 26 CRPF personnel on 29 June, 2010;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Government ignored the intelligence reports and the demand of Narayanpur Police regarding establishing a CRPF camp at Narayanpur; and

(c) whether Government proposes to get lapses investigated that led to killing CRPF personnel by the naxalites on 29 June, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Actionable intelligence is generated by Central and State Intelligence agencies from time to time and shared on real-time basis. The mechanism of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) at Central level and State Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) in the State have been functioning effectively. State Police and Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs) invariably conduct coordinated intelligence based joint operations based on these inputs. However, the incident of ambush of CRPF personnel on 29th June, 2010 in Chhattisgarh took place in a highly Maoist infested area under inhospitable terrain conditions, where security personnel were taken by surprise. The CRPF have set up a Court of Inquiry to investigate the incident.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.