

(c) in what way would Government improve matters so that foreigners working in India or seeking work permits or tourists wanting to extend their stays have less bureaucratic hurdles and delays; and

(d) the steps proposed to immediately effect some changes to improve efficiency in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Due to increase in the number of foreigners visiting India, there has been corresponding increase in the number of foreigners seeking visa related services like registration, extension and conversion. In order to cope up with this, powers have been delegated to Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Besides Visa Facilitation Centre in Ministry of Home Affairs, five FRROs situated in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Amritsar cater to the requirements of majority of foreigners. These offices have been computerized to improve delivery system.

Further, States/UTs have been advised to direct Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs), who are Superintendents of Police of concerned districts/ Officers designated by States/UTs in Police Commissionerates to deal with foreigners' matters expeditiously.

However, due to mandatory requirement of security verification, specially with regard to regularization of overstay, delay cannot be ruled out.

Aerial survey to check naxal activities in Chhattisgarh

†3411. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to undertake any aerial survey to check the increasing naxalite activities in Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[17 May, 2006]

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(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that naxalites are getting consignments of arms from foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details of concrete strategy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JArSWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are no reports to suggest that Indian naxal groups are getting arms consignments from abroad.

(c) Does not arise.

Central assistance to bordering States

3412. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance including amount and period to bordering States;

(b) the States that are being given this assistance/package; and

(c) whether Government would treat Tamil Nadu on the same line in view of the long coastal border and proximity to Sri Lanka that necessitate constant vigil like bordering States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is implemented in 345 identified border blocks of 17 States sharing land borders with neighbouring countries. BADP allocation for these States is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Tamil Nadu is covered under the centrally funded Coastal Security Scheme. The approved outlay for Tamil Nadu under this scheme is Rs. 4408.00 lakh and the State Govt, has been provided 309.20 lakh during 2005-06.