

Smuggling of contrabands along Indo-Nepal Border

*20. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that porous Indo-Nepal Border is being exploited by illegal wildlife traders, to smuggle various contrabands by taking advantage of the ignorance of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel in the matter;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of incidents of smuggling of wildlife contrabands reported during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to sensitise the personnel of SSB on the subject and also to plug the cross border loopholes in illegal wildlife trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Indo-Nepal border is open and thickly populated. The movement of Indian and Nepalese citizens across the Indo-Nepal border is governed by Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950, which provides for free movement of citizens of both the countries across the Indo-Nepal Border. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed at Indo-Nepal Border as a Border Guarding Force. SSB has established 450 Border Out Posts (BOPs). Round-the-clock patrolling, random checking and regular surveillance are carried out by SSB to stop cross border criminal activities including smugglings of illegal wildlife contraband.

There have been incidents of smuggling of various items including wildlife contraband on Indo-Nepal border (INB). The details of seizures (wildlife contraband) by SSB are as follows:

Year	No. of seizures
2009	14
2010	11
2011	05
2012 (upto 31.07.2012)	02

(c) In order to sensitize the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel on smuggling of wildlife products, workshops at Training Centres and field formations are being regularly organized. Also, SSB personnel work in close coordination with the officers/officials of forest department and other sister agencies in its Area of Responsibility (AOR).

To stop the smuggling of contraband including wildlife contraband and other illegal activities, SSB has deployed 25 Bns and established 450 Border Out Posts (BOPs) on Indo Nepal Border (INB) which regularly carries out various operational activities like patrolling and laying of nakas along the border. Checking of persons crossing the border is also being carried out both randomly as well as on the basis of specific inputs received from SSB's own sources/sister agencies. Field formations and intelligence set ups are being regularly sensitized and continuous monitoring is being done in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of Export Performance

1. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has reviewed country's export performance in the wake of uncertain economic condition in the western markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in percentage terms in 2010-11 and 2011-12;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate during 2011-12 is at 6.5, the lowest in nine years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what corrective steps Government is taking so that the economy picks up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Export performance is monitored continuously. India's export is increased by 40.5 % and 21.3 % (provisional) in US \$ terms during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The low growth is attributable to both global and domestic factors. The global factors include the crisis in the euro-zone and the near-recessionary conditions prevailing in Europe; sluggish growth in several industrialized economies including the USA; hardening international prices of crude oil. Among domestic factors, the tightening of monetary policy in order to control inflation resulted in the slowing down of investment and growth, particularly in the industrial sector.

(e) Measures taken by the Government include enhancing the level of investment for agriculture sector including irrigation projects, promoting Micro Small