

(a) whether the Pakistan bound passengers from border districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore are not allowed to board the Thar Express from Barmer or Munabao despite the fact that immigration/custom/security clearance is done at Munabao itself;

(b) if so, the precise reasons for the same;

(c) whether the intelligence agencies have given their clearance for running Thar Express from Barmer/Munabao; and

(d) if so, the fresh steps taken by Government to allow the passengers to board Thar Express from Munabao or Barmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present system of not allowing boarding/de-boarding of passengers at Munabao/Barmer, has been adopted by the government keeping in view the security and operational consideration from various angles. It may be pertinent to mention that the movement of Indians other than the *bonafide* residents of border areas is restricted to the west side of NH-15 which falls under "Restricted Area Regime"—under sub section (i) of section 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1961.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Fast track courts for crime against women

1008. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fast track courts for rape, molestation, acid attacks and eve teasing cases, set up in the country and Assam; and

(b) the details of measures taken in the courts and police stations for sensitivity towards the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations wherein para 5(xiv) specifically States that 'Action should be taken at the State level to set up of Fast Track Courts and Family Courts'. Most of the States have set up Fast Track Courts for heinous crimes against women.

As per information provided by the State Government of Assam, 03 (three) Fast Track Courts for trial of rape cases have been established in Assam.

(b) As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Courts' are the State subjects under the Constitution, and as such, the primary responsibility regarding responsiveness and sensitivity of law enforcement machinery lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, in the above said Advisory, all States/UTs have been advised to make a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness and sensitivity of the law and order machinery.

Violence during panchayat election in Assam

†1009. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind the violence that flared up during panchayat election in Assam, and the number of people killed in the violence as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that local police and Central security forces opened fire on common people while bringing the situation under control in which several innocent people died; and

(c) the number of people killed in various incidents of violence in Assam during the last three years, and the reasons behind spreading of violence there repeatedly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per report received from the Government of Assam, the State Government had established a Rabha - Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) in 1995 through a State Legislation for socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of the Rabha tribe. The RHAC being under a State Legislation, continuation of Panchayati Raj institutions in the area remained mandatory under Constitutional provisions. When the Panchayat elections became due, the Rabhas demanded elections to RHAC to be conducted before the Panchayat elections. But the Council constituencies were awaiting delimitation. Considering this and other logistical and law and order issues, the State Election

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.