

Police stations not keeping weapons fearing loot by maoists

2737. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the equipment shortage, forces the Maoists to rely on bombs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the CRPF has also asked its personnel to use mine protected vehicles sparingly as Maoists are experts at making powerful mine up to 100 kg of explosive load that throw vehicles so high at the air that personnel die of its impact;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to Maoists raid, police stations in several Maoists affected districts have stopped keeping weapon, eliminating opportunity for Maoists to loot; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) It is a fact that the Maoists are facing shortage of arms and ammunitions. The shortage of arms and ammunitions is not the sole reason to rely on bombs/IEDs. Reportedly, other reasons which contribute to usage of bombs/IEDs include maximum destruction with minimum manpower, minimum risk of own loss and multiple targets. Decline in recruitment levels of LWE cadres has also forced the extremists to rely on bombs IEDs.

(b) and (c) The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has issued instructions to sparingly use Mine Protection Vehicles (MPVs) in the LWE affected areas as the existing MPVs can tolerate and shield up to a specific quantity of explosive beyond which it is pregnable. The Left Wing Extremists use more and more explosives as per their needs.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the loot of weapons by the Maoists, presently, most of the Maoist affected police stations are being fortified. The Central Government has also been implementing a Scheme namely 'Construction/ Strengthening of Fortified Police Stations', under which financial assistance is provided to LWE affected States, in order to construct fortified police stations. Efforts are made to keep sufficient security forces personnel at most of the vulnerable police stations. Only in a few police stations, where there is no deployment of security forces, only the officers are allowed to keep their personal weapons. However, this situation may vary from State to State depending upon the ground realities.