

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has unravelled the foreign links in the Khagragarh, West Bengal blasts. The Bangladesh based terrorist organisation, viz., Jamat-Ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was found involved in the said blast. During the investigation, NIA arrested two Bangladesh nationals in connection with the blasts.

(d) No such information is available with the Governments.

Maritime and coastal security

394. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any efforts for better and effective coordination between the various State Governments and Central Ministries and agencies on the issue of maritime and coastal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early implementation of various proposals pertaining to coastal security that are pending before it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated following measures for effective coordination among various State Governments, Central Ministries and agencies :

- (i) A three-tier arrangement for maritime security of the country by the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Marine Police of all coastal States and Union Territories is in place. Director General, Coast guard has been designated as the Commander of Coastal Command and is responsible for overall coordination between the State and the Central Agencies in all the matters relating to coastal security.
- (ii) Periodic review of maritime and coastal security including coordination measures are being undertaken by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri. A National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against threats from the Sea (NCSMCS) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to closely monitor the implementation of the decisions taken to strengthen the coastal security in the country. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Border Management), MHA has been constituted to review the effective implementation of the coastal security schemes.

- (iii) Multi Agency Centre (MAC)/Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) meetings are organised by the intelligence Bureau at Centre and State levels to share the information.
 - (iv) The Indian Coast Guard conducts Coastal Security Exercises involving all the stake-holders in all coastal States/UTs on a bi-annual basis to assess the preparedness against security threats from the sea and Coastal Security operations involving all stake-holders on the basis of intelligence inputs.
- (c) Implementation of the proposals pertaining to coastal security is an ongoing process. The proposals are scrutinized in consultation with other stockholders and if required, it is placed before the NCSMCS and submitted to the competent authority for final decision.

Strengthening FSLs in the country

395. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian criminal justice system's use of forensics suffers from both on inadequacy of facilities and a lack of capability in the police forces in gathering forensic evidence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and measures proposed to be taken to tackle these problems;
- (c) whether it is a fact that most of the forensic labs in the country are overburdened and understaffed affecting their efficiency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to make the existing forensic science labs efficient and to open more FSLs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. Facilities and capabilities in the police forces in gathering forensic evidence are reviewed on a constant basis and supplemented and augmented from time to time.

(b) The capacity of State police forces is improved through provisions of modernization of equipments and training with regard to gathering forensic evidence. Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science (LNJNNICFS), New Delhi under the Ministry of Home Affairs is constantly organising training for Police and Scientists to educate them for collection and examination of forensic evidence. Besides Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) under Ministry of Home Affairs also conducts regular training for police personnel