

Deploying more BSF personnel along border districts of Punjab

700. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to deploy more BSF personnel along the border districts of Punjab specially Pathankot and Gurdaspur, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a proposal in this regard from the State of Punjab and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) A request was received in August, 2015 from the Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Government of Punjab regarding increase in deployment of BSF in Gurdaspur Sector. Recently BSF has deployed 18 additional companies on International Border in Punjab.

Increase in Battalions of NDRF

701. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has sought to increase its battalions from its present strength of 12 to 20 battalions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the NDRF has also sought approval for creation of its own dedicated aviation wing if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NDRF is increasing its presence alongside the military which is still the predominant rescue and relief operations agency in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from NDRF to increase its strength from 12 to 20 battalions.

(b) No Sir. No such proposal has been submitted by NDRF to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) In terms of Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the NDRF has been constituted for specialized response to the disaster and disaster like situations. NDRF has 12 battalions at present which have been stationed in different parts of the country as per the vulnerability profile.