

forces, extortion of money from public and transporters on national highways, and siphoning off development funds etc.

Meeting of Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh

828. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh had met to discuss various common issues between two countries;

(b) whether Bangladesh Government has shot down India's proposal to have joint patrol along the border even as two countries have agreed to work together to contain smuggling of drugs, arms and human trafficking;

(c) whether this question was also discussed by the Indian BSF Director General with his counterpart of Bangladesh in Dhaka in May, 2004; and

(d) if so, to what extent India and Bangladesh have taken steps to check infiltration to India from Bangladesh and with what results?

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

(b) A decision was taken during Director-General level meeting between India and Bangladesh to commence simultaneous coordinated patrolling by Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR). BSF had forwarded a draft in June 2003 to Bangladesh regarding the modalities to be adopted. The Government of Bangladesh has not yet responded in this regard.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Additional Battalions of BSF have been deployed along the Indo-Bangladesh border and construction work of border roads and border fencing is in progress to check the illegal infiltration. As result interception of Bangladeshi nationals by BSF has been steadily increasing.

Regulations to check lottery activities

829. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments in India are permitted to carry